JUMP COMICS

挑戦者たち!!

巻ノ五

NARUTO

-ナルト-

岸本斉史

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岸本斉史

I love movies, so I go see them pretty often. And since I watch movies often, I decided to spend what little money I had to purchase a DVD player. Ho ho ho...now I can enjoy movies with incredibly high image quality and Dolby Digital sound! Or so I thought, except that the movies I wanted to watch hardly ever came out on DVD, so I couldn't watch them anyway. Recently, however, the popularity of DVDs has finally risen, and more and more DVDs are coming out!! Yes! Except...now I'm so busy drawing manga that I don't have time to watch them, even though I want to! Waah!

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2000*

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("Mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

JUMP COMICS

NARUTO
-ナルト-

巻ノ五

挑戦者たち!!

岸本斉史

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主な登場人物

うちは
サスケ

うずまき
ナルト

春野サクラ

ガイ

日向ネジ

ロック・リー

テンテン

カブト

奈良シカマル

犬塚キバ&
赤丸

日向ヒナタ

山中いの

秋道チョウジ

油女シノ

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THE STORY SO FAR...

Twelve years ago, a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The Hokage, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to become a ninja-in-training, learning the art of ninjutsu with his classmates Sakura and Sasuke. Naruto, Sasuke and Sakura have been nominated by their instructor Kakashi to take the Junior Ninja Selection Exams, which they must pass to advance to the next level of ninja training. The village is crawling with student ninja from villages near and far, who are all determined to ace the exams. On their way to turn in the applications, they observe their fellow students' advanced skill and training, and Naruto and his class mates begin to suspect that they're in way over their heads...

前巻までのあらすじ
ぜんかん

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NARUTO
ーナルトー

巻ノ五

挑戦者(ちょうせんしゃ)たち!!

もくじ

CONTENTS

NUMBER 37	A TOTAL MISMATCH!!!	7
NUMBER 38	ON YOUR MARK	27
NUMBER 39	THE CHALLENGERS!!	47
NUMBER 40	THE FIRST TEST	65
NUMBER 41	THE WHISPER OF DEMONS	85
NUMBER 42	TO EACH HIS OWN	105
NUMBER 43	THE TENTH QUESTION	123
NUMBER 44	THE TALENTS WE TEST FOR	143
NUMBER 45	THE SECOND EXAM	163
PREVIEWS		182

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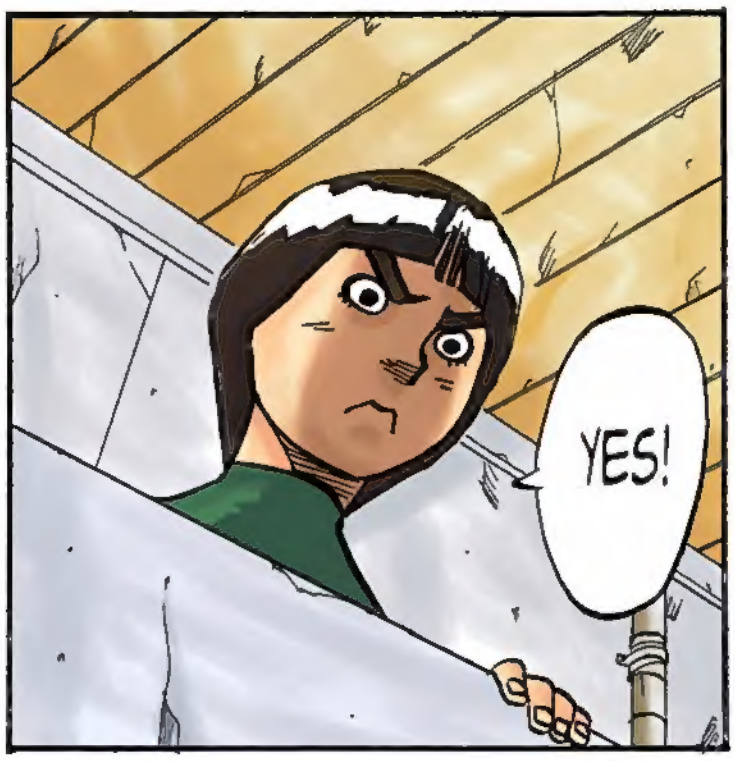
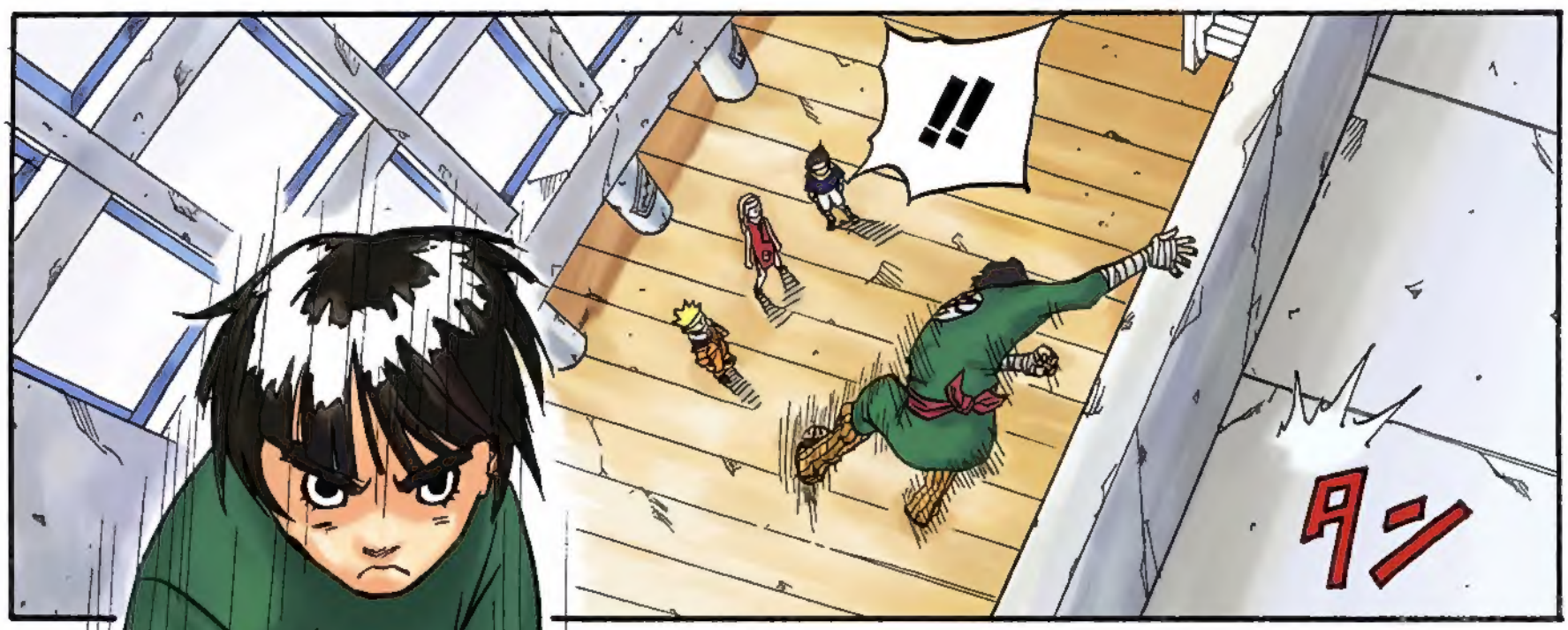
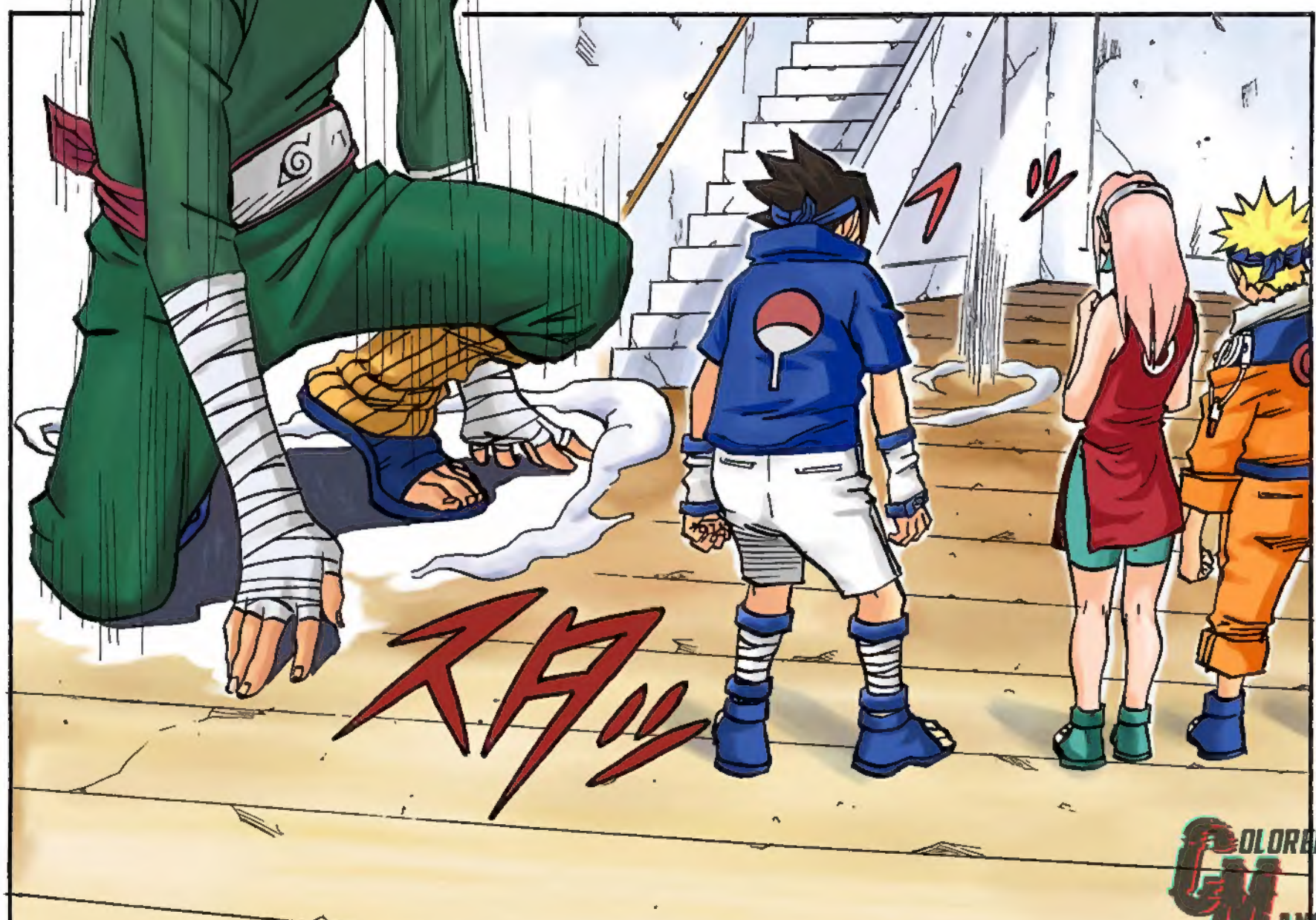
ナンバー
37：最悪の相性…!!







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ナンバー
37：
最悪の相性…!!
A TOTAL MiSMATCH...!!

AMONG STICKLERS, ETIQUETTE REQUIRES ONE TO INTRODUCE ONESELF BEFORE ASKING FOR THE NAME OF ANOTHER..

MY NAME IS ROCK LEE.

HUH... SO YOU KNEW WHO I WAS ALL ALONG.

...UCHIHA SASUKE.

...AGAINST THE LAST SURVIVING MEMBER OF YOUR LEGENDARY CLAN.

I WANT TO TEST THE EFFECTIVE-NESS OF MY TECHNIQUES..

I'M CALLING YOU OUT!!

BESIDES...

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WINK

ばーん

!

THOSE EYELASHES CREEP ME OUT!

NO WAY!!

YOU'RE AN ANGEL!!

-MWAH-

イェ!

...

PLUS THE CATER-PILLAR UNIBROW!

NOT TO MENTION THE GEEKY 'DO...

...

ヒリ ヒリ

PUFF

PUFF

THIP

WHEW!? THAT WAS TOO CLOSE...

AIEE!!

!!!

THUD

COLORED MANGA.COM

SASUKE, SASUKE! IT'S ALL ABOUT SASUKE! BLEAH!

YOU KEEP YOUR WEIRD KISSES TO YOURSELF, CREEP!

I COULD HAVE DIED, DODGING THAT!!

AW... DON'T BE LIKE THAT...

SO YOU'RE CHALLENGING ME, EVEN KNOWING MY LINEAGE?

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE A FOOL.

OH, YEAH!

SO, DOG-BROW... DO YOU REALLY WANT TO LEARN...

...WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN UCHIHA?

NOW YOU'LL GET THE PROOF YOU REQUIRE, MASTER GUY!

HOLD IT.

ABSOLUTELY!

I CAN HARDLY WAIT!

I'M GOING TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE CREAM OF THE ROOKIE CROP, FIRST TIME-OUT!

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JUST GIVE **ME** FIVE MINUTES...

LET ME HANDLE DOG-BROW. HE'LL BE TOAST.

ONLY UCHIHA.

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN FIGHTING YOU.

A''A''

スッ...

A''

STORY OF MY FREAKIN' LIFE! IT'S "SASUKE, THIS!" AND "SASUKE, THAT!" TILL I COULD JUST **PUKE!**

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GURK!

!!

月!!

ヤ

ドカ

COLORED ANIMATION

AUGH!

GALE FORCE TECHNIQUE!!!

ズドーン

ゴロゴロゴロ

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HE'S PRETTY TOUGH AFTER ALL. AMAZING!

NONE OF YOU WILL BEAT ME.

MARK MY WORDS...

...AM THE GREATEST FIGHTER AMONG ALL THE JUNIOR NINJA IN KONOHA VILLAGE!

OOG...

I...

HE STOPPED MY KICK WITH HIS ARM. NO HUMAN ALIVE CAN DO THAT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TECHNIQUES HE'S USING...BUT I WANT TO FIND OUT!

THIS COULD BE FUN. I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE.

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WE HAVE LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR TO SUBMIT OUR APPLICATIONS!

DON'T DO IT, SASUKE!

12 3 6 9

!

OH!

SASUKE!

THIS WILL ONLY TAKE FIVE MINUTES.

BAM!!!

HERE GOES!!

I'M SORRY, MASTER GUY... I MAY HAVE TO BREAK THE BIG RULE!

ごめんなさい先生(せんせい)…しれません

ｱﾜﾜﾜ

あの技(わざ)を使(つか)うっ！ I MIGHT NEED THAT JUTSU!

…るかも…!!

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KONOHA HURRICANE!!

!!!

ABOVE ME!!

NO TIME TO DUCK. GOTTA BLOCK!

!!

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!!

WHAT?!

SASUKE!!!

HIT

WHOA.

IS THIS MARTIAL ARTS... OR MAGIC? AN ILLUSION?

HOW'D HE GET UNDER MY GUARD?

I THOUGHT SASUKE BLOCKED THAT!

WHAT... THE...?

ドガ...

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THIS MAY BE MY CHANCE TO GET IN A LITTLE PRACTICE USING... IT.

ムフ..

FINE.

AS EXPECTED, HE'S COMING BACK FOR MORE!

ゾク

!!

TH - THAT LOOKS LIKE -

HUH?!

!?

!

!

THE *SHARINGAN* MIRROR-WHEEL EYE!!

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...

SO THAT'S THE FAMOUS SHARINGAN...
写輪眼ですか…

WHY SASUKE? AND WHY BOTH EYES?
なぜ サスケくんが 両目の写輪眼に…！

BUT WHEN COULD SASUKE HAVE...!?
いつの間に…

OH, SASUKE! HE'S THE BEST!

IF THIS IS THE SAME KIND OF GEBETIC "KEKKEI GENKAI" SKILL THAT MASTER KAKASHI HAS, SASUKE CAN PENETRATE THE SECRETS OF DOG BROW'S TECHNIQUES!
血継限界!!

F

!!

AND SASUKE'S GONNA TAKE IT APART!!

HE'S GETTING STRONGER ALL THE TIME. IT MUST BE HIS UCHIHA BLOOD!

THERE'S NO WAY SOME SLIMY RUNT COULD BEAT **HIM**!

WHETHER IT'S GENJUTSU OR NINJUTSU...
幻術か忍術かもわからないなんて…

!THERE'S SOME KIND OF MAGIC AT WORK HERE!"
…この中に…

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BUT HE USED THE SHARINGAN!

!!

HUNH?!

EXACTLY. THEY'RE NEITHER MARITAL ARTS NOR ILLUSION.

-BUT... THAT MEANS... THOSE MOVES HE'S USING...は…!

MY SHARINGAN COULDN'T SEE THROUGH HIS TECHNIQUE. んて…

OHH...

KAGEBUYO*... SHADOW OF THE DANCING LEAF...

!!

S-SASUKE!!

!!

!

HUNH...

* ONE OF KONOHA-STYLE'S *TAIJUTSU* PHYSICAL ARTS: THE WARRIOR VISUALIZES HIS OPPONENT AS A [illegible] WIND-TOSSED LEAF, AND THE WARRIOR PURSUES THAT LEAF BY MOVING AS THOUGH HE WERE IT'S SHADOW.

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HARD AS YOU MAY FIND IT TO ACCEPT...

THAT'S RIGHT. NO NINJUTSU. NO TRICKERY. MY MOVES ARE STRICTLY PHYSICAL.

BUT... HOW?!

I'M SURE YOUR *SHARINGAN* IS INVALUABLE AGAINST ARTS LIKE NINJUTSU AND GENJUTSU, WITH THEIR FORMALIZED RULES, SIGN-CASTING, AND CHAKRAS...

BUT PHYSICAL *TAIJUTSU* ARTS IN THEIR PURE FORM ARE A VERY DIFFERENT STORY.

... IF YOUR *SHARINGAN* EYE CAN SEE TO THE HEART OF EVERY NINJA ART WELL ENOUGH TO DUPLICATE IT, AS IT IS SAID TO, THEN YOU KNOW WHAT I SAY IS TRUE.

FWUP

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOUR EYE CAN SEE IF YOUR BODY'S TOO WEAK TO ACT!

EVEN IF YOU CAN PERFECTLY PERCEIVE AND UNDERSTAND MY MOVEMENTS, YOU LACK THE SPEED AND STRENGTH TO COUNTER THEM. YOU HAVEN'T HAD THE PHYSICAL TRAINING NECESSARY TO KEEP UP WITH ME!

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IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR SUBTLE ARTS AND MY PHYSICAL PROWESS MAKE US A COMPLETE MISMATCH!

LET ME PROVE IT TO YOU.

YOUR *SHARINGAN* IS NATURAL-BORN GENIUS. I HEAR IT RUNS IN YOUR FAMILY.

WHAT I HAVE, I GOT THROUGH BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS!

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF STRENGTH. THE KIND YOU'RE BORN WITH... AND THE KIND YOU ONLY GET FROM BACK-BREAKING WORK.

THIS PARTICULAR MOVE OF MINE EXCEEDS YOUR GENIUS... COMPLETELY!

何 WHAT'S HE UP TO? ...!?

HALT!

ガッ

!!

HUNH?

THAT'S ENOUGH, LEE!

!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

COLORED
MANGA.COM

ナンバー
38：
スタート
START
...!!

THAT'S ENOUGH, LEE!

COLORED
MANGA.COM

GURK!

LZZW

LZZW

WHAT'S... HAPPENING...?

SASUKE!!!

A!!

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スタッ

AIEE!!

YOU... YOU SAW?

SASUKE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

HE'S TREMBLING... HE CAN'T EVEN DEFEND HIMSELF...

...

SASUKE GOT HIS BUTT KICKED?!

THEY KNOCK ME OUT, AND I MISS ALL THE GOOD PARTS!

HE'S GETTING CHEWED OUT. AW, MAN! DON'T TELL ME THE TURTLE IS...

AHA!

AND WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE TURTLE?

P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME... I WAS ONLY...

YOU KNOW THE RULES, LEE. THAT MOVE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN!

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ヒ"

DOG-BROW'S TEACHER?!

キ"

?

よ間ま THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! ば

I... I WOULDN'T HAVE USED THE REVERSAL MOVE...I NEVER MEANT...

あせあせ

THAT'S A TURTLE... RIGHT?

THAT THING OVER THERE...

!

A"

A"

A"

HEY!! HEY!

!

WHAT?

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ビクッ

YOU FOOL!!

DON'T ASK STUPID QUESTIONS!!

SO WHAT'S THE DEAL HERE? CAN TURTLES BECOME NINJA?

OBVIOUSLY!!!

...

OH...

CONSIDER THE REPERCUSSIONS OF A SHINOBI WARRIOR-- ANY SHINOBI-- BALDLY EXPLAINING ALL HIS SECRETS!

Y-YES, SIR!

DO YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT YOUR FEEBLE EXCUSES?

ドンドン

WELL, THEN... HE'S ALL YOURS, MASTER GUY!

Y-YES, SIR...

I HOPE YOU ARE PROPERLY PREPARED?

WHAT A DISGRACE, LOSING TO THAT CLOWN!

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ガッ

AH, THE EXUBERANCE OF YOUTH. ALL OF YOU ARE FULL OF IT.

COLORED BY NARUTOMANGA.COM

YAAAAAGH!!!

!!

!

THEY'RE ALMOST... ALIVE...

HE'S GOT THE BIGGEST EYEBROWS YET!

H-HEY!! DON'T TRY TO MAKE FUN OF MASTER GUY!!

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE 'EM!

THEY'RE... UBER-BROWS!

AND THAT SAME DORKY 'DO...

LEE!

WHAT--

OH! UH, YES, SIR...

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF ALL THE FREAKS WHO KEEP POPPING IN HERE!!

OH, SHUT UP!

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OWW!!

IDIOT!!

MASTER...!!

YOU...
YOU...

HUH?!

!!

...

MASTER!!

THAT'S ENOUGH, LEE! NOT ONE MORE WORD.

ドサッ

I... I...

MASTER...

COLORED MANGA.COM

I GOT BEATEN... BY SOME TOUCHY-FEELY CRYBABY!

EWWW...

!?

DON'T BE AN IDIOT! THEY'RE UP TO SOMETHING!

DOESN'T IT GIVE YOU A WARM, FUZZY FEELING?

キュッ

I UNDERSTAND. IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE YOUNG!

MASTER!

I UNDER-STAND!!

YOUR PENALTY WILL BE TO SWEAT AFTER THE *CHÛNIN* SELECTION EXAMS. ♡

BUT I CAN'T LET YOUR ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE BIG RULE GO UNPUNISHED.

YOU ARE TOO KIND... MASTER!!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, LEE! MISTAKES AND YOUTH GO HAND IN HAND.

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WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THAT TURTLE THING, ANYWAY?

WHAT A DIP...

...

YES, SIR!!

FIVE HUNDRED LAPS AROUND THE PRACTICE ARENA!!

UH-OH... HE'S LOOKING AT US.

カカシ先生の…

...ARE KAKASHI'S.

WHOA!!

UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, THOSE CHILDREN... Id

チラ

HEH HEH...

DO I KNOW HIM?

I'M ASKING YOU!

BY THE WAY... HOW IS MASTER KAKASHI?

ちゃっス

YOU KNOW MASTER KAKASHI?

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?

HUHNH?!

え!?

!!!

I SHOULD SAY SO! WE'RE ARCH-RIVALS!

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HEY! HOW'D HE...?!

THE SCORE STANDS AT FIFTY TO FORTY-NINE.

HE...

力 凄まじ HE'S SO FAST. HIS SPEED IS SO MUCH GREATER THAN KAKASHI'S!! なら

IS HE EVEN HUMAN...?! !?

I'M STRONGER THAN HE IS.

WHO IS THIS GUY? HE CLAIMS HE'S BETTER THAN KAKASHI!...

...AND I DON'T THINK HE'S BLUFFING!

GOTTA SAVE FACE... IT'S JUST SO HANDSOME!

I KNOW LEE STARTED THIS FIGHT, BUT TAKE PITY ON HIS OLD TEACHER. FOR THE SAKE OF MY OWN SELF-RESPECT, FORGIVE HIM

GEEZ ...

AS YOU CAN SEE, MASTER GUY IS TOTALLY AMAZING!!!

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ガッ

!!!

YOU AND LEE SHOULD HEAD UP TO THE CLASSROOM NOW.

ズザ

!

ドン

ドン

!!

HE'S...

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I'M REALLY HERE TO PROVE MY OWN STRENGTH IN COMBAT.

...I WAS BLOWING SMOKE BEFORE.

BY THE WAY, SASUKE...

BEST OF LUCK, LEE!

LATER!!

YES, SIR!

OFF TO APPLY FOR THE EXAM. BE READY FOR IT, OKAY?

...

THE STRONGEST JUNIOR NINJA IS A MEMBER OF MY OWN TEAM... ...AND I INTEND TO TAKE HIM DOWN.

AND I DON'T THINK YOU'RE THE STRONGEST KONOHA GENIN.

THAT'S WHY I'M ENTERING. AND BY THE WAY... YOU'RE ON MY LIST, TOO.

SASUKE...

WHAT WAS THAT CRAP?!

... SHUT UP...

NARUTO!!

MAYBE YOUR HOT-SNOT, FAMOUS UCHIHA CLAN ISN'T THAT GREAT AFTER ALL, HUH?

DESPITE THE TOTAL BUTT-KICKING YOU GOT THIS TIME, RIGHT?

SHUT **UP**, NARUTO!

NEXT TIME, HE'S DEAD MEAT.

YOU SAW HIS HANDS, RIGHT?

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OLD DOGGY BROWS PROBABLY GETS SOME KIND OF SUPER-DUPER EXTRA-SPECIAL TRAINING, DAY AFTER DAY!

EVEN MORE THAN YOU GOT.

YOU'RE TOAST, PAL!

...

SASUKE... サ：ケ君

グッ

HMMF!

グッ

グッ

INTERESTING...

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...

YEP!

WELL, YEAH!

THINGS ARE STARTING TO GET INTERESTING. THIS *CHÛNIN* SELECTION EXAM IS BRINGING THINGS TO A BOIL!

NARUTO? SAKURA? LET'S GO!

YEAH!!

NARUTO-COLORED MANGA.COM

GLAD YOU MADE IT AFTER ALL, SAKURA.

301

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

!

THIS WAY YOU ALL QUALIFY TO APPLY FOR THE *CHÛNIN* SELECTION EXAM.

BUT... MASTER KAKASHI, YOU SAID IT WAS UP TO EACH OF US TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO APPLY. WERE YOU LYING?

THE WAY THE TEST IS SET UP, IT CAN ONLY BE TAKEN BY THREE-PERSON CELLS.

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...AND YOU'D HAVE COME ALONG AND GONE THROUGH THE MOTIONS, THOUGH YOUR HEART WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN IN IT.

EVEN IF YOU HAD NO INTEREST IN APPLYING, ONE WORD FROM SASUKE...

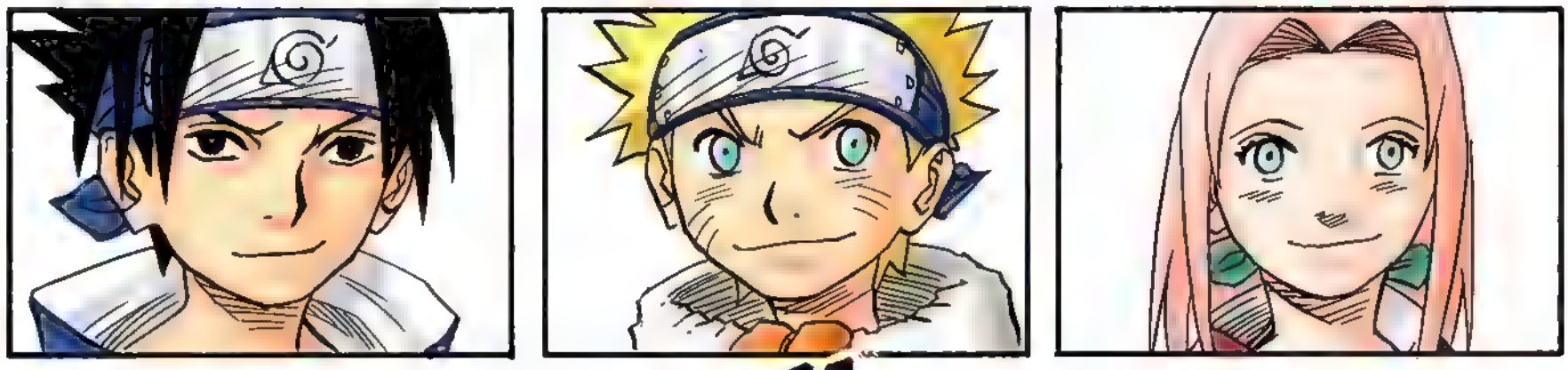
I SAID WHAT I HAD TO TO KEEP YOUR PARTNERS FROM PRESSURING YOU INTO COMING ALONG.

BUT YOU'RE ALL HERE BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE. AND I'M VERY, VERY PROUD OF YOU.

NOW GET IN THERE!

I'D HAVE WASHED THEM OUT RIGHT HERE. NONE OF YOU WOULD HAVE GOTTEN PAST THIS POINT WITHOUT BOTH OF THE OTHERS.

WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF SASUKE AND NARUTO HAD SHOWN UP WITHOUT ME?



LOOK OUT EVERYBODY, 'CAUSE HERE WE COME!!

キィ

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WINK

ナンバー 39：挑戦者(ちょうせんしゃ)たち!!

THE CHALLENGERS!!

TAK

TAK

301

301

TAK

!!!

WHAT IS THIS?

...

WHAT TH...?!

WH...

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ナンバー39：挑戦者（ちょうせんしゃ）たち!!

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何(なん)な…SO MANY PEOPLE.なの…

ARE THEY ALL HERE TO APPLY? 全員(ぜんいん)…

ガ!!!

SASUKE! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, CUTIE? ♡

!!

…なんかみんな(…)THEY LOOK…INCREDIBLE…

ULP!

I COULD HARDLY WAIT! IT'S SO EXCITING, SEEING YOU AGAIN AFTER ALL THIS TIME!

INO, YOU PIG!!! GET YOUR HOOVES OFF SASUKE!

HELLO TO YOU, TOO, SAKURA.

STILL HOPING THE BIG, MUTANT FOREHEAD LOOK IS GOING TO COME INTO FASHION, HUH? HOW SWEET. ♡

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STOP CALLING US THAT!

WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE THREE STOOGES!

#AK

WHY DON'T YOU THREE SAVE YOURSELVES THE EMBARRASSMENT OF FLUNKING THIS TEST? GO DIE, OKAY?

BLEAH!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

ASUMA CELL NUMBER 10

AKIMICHI CHOJI A LITTLE PORKER WHO'S ALWAYS STUFFING HIS FACE. **FAT FOOL.**

WHAT A PAIN IN THE BUTT.

ASUMA CELL NUMBER 10

NARA SHIKAMARU A LAZY, UNMOTIVATED, GOOD-FOR-NOTHING, FULL OF NOTHING BUT COMPLAINTS. **WHINING FOOL.**

HEY! THERE YOU ARE!

GONNA MAKE SASUKE MINE! ♡ BLEAH!

ASUMA CELL NUMBER 10

YAMANAKA INO SAKURA'S RIVAL AND ARCH-NEMESIS, AND ANOTHER WOULD-BE SASUKE GROUPIE. **FOOL FOR SASUKE.**

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LOOKS LIKE THE GANG'S ALL HERE.

UH... HI...

SO... I GUESS ALL THREE OF THIS YEAR'S NEWBIE TRIOS DECIDED TO APPLY, HUNH?

TAK

TAK

I WONDER HOW FAR WE'LL ALL GET.

WHAT DO YOU THINK... ...SASUKE?

INCLUDING YOU... UNFORTUNATELY!

WHO'S ACTING? THE WAY **WE'VE** TRAINED, NO WAY CAN YOU BEAT US.

HEE HEE HEE!

OH, SHUT UP!! YOU GUYS WON'T EVEN BEAT ME, MUCH LESS SASUKE!

TRYING TO PSYCH US BY ACTING COOL, KIBA?

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HUNH?

THAT DOG WOULD PROBABLY BE GREAT WITH SOME HOT SAUCE.....

KIBA DIDN'T MEAN THAT THE WAY IT SOUNDED...

I-I'M SORRY, NARUTO...

KURENAI CELL NUMBER 8
INUZUKA KIBA AND AKAMARU
A WORSE WILDMAN THAN ME! HE MAKES ME SICK, DRAGGING THAT STUPID MUTT EVERYWHERE AND

KURENAI CELL NUMBER 8
HYUGA HINATA
A WORLD-CLASS FREAK WHO WON'T EVEN LOOK ME IN THE EYE. A SHY LITTLE BRUNETTE.

!!

...DO US ALL A FAVOR AND JUST SHUT UP?

WOULD YOU GUYS...

KURENAI CELL NUMBER 8
ABURAME SHINO
I DON'T KNOW THIS GUY FROM ADAM.
NO READING ON HIM WHATSOEVER.

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TAK

ALL WET-BEHIND-THE-EARS AND RUNNY-NOSED!

YOU THREE GANGS OF WOULD-BE HOTSHOTS ARE ALL GENIN, RIGHT? KIDS BARELY OUT OF THE LOCAL NINJA ACADEMY?

WHO THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

THIS ISN'T A SCHOOL FIELD TRIP, YOU KNOW.

WHY?

NAME'S KABUTO. SO WHAT?

YOU KIDS NEED TO OPEN YOUR EYES.

ギロ！

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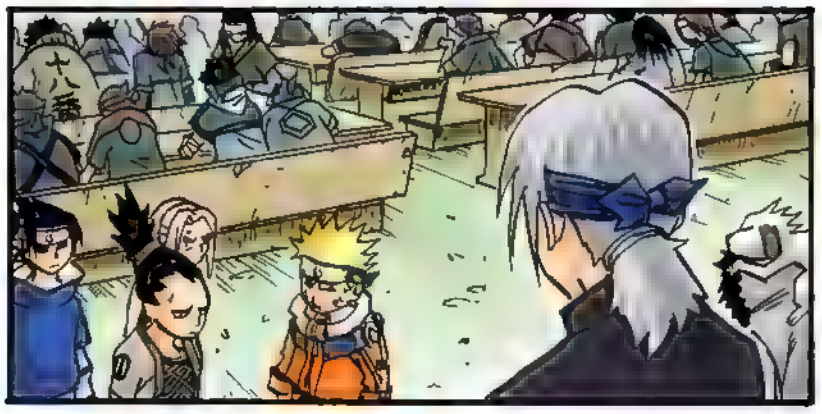
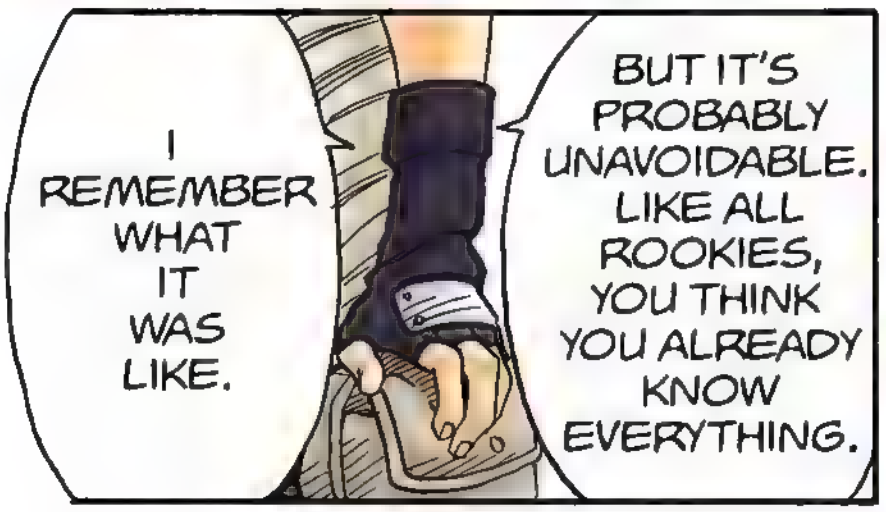
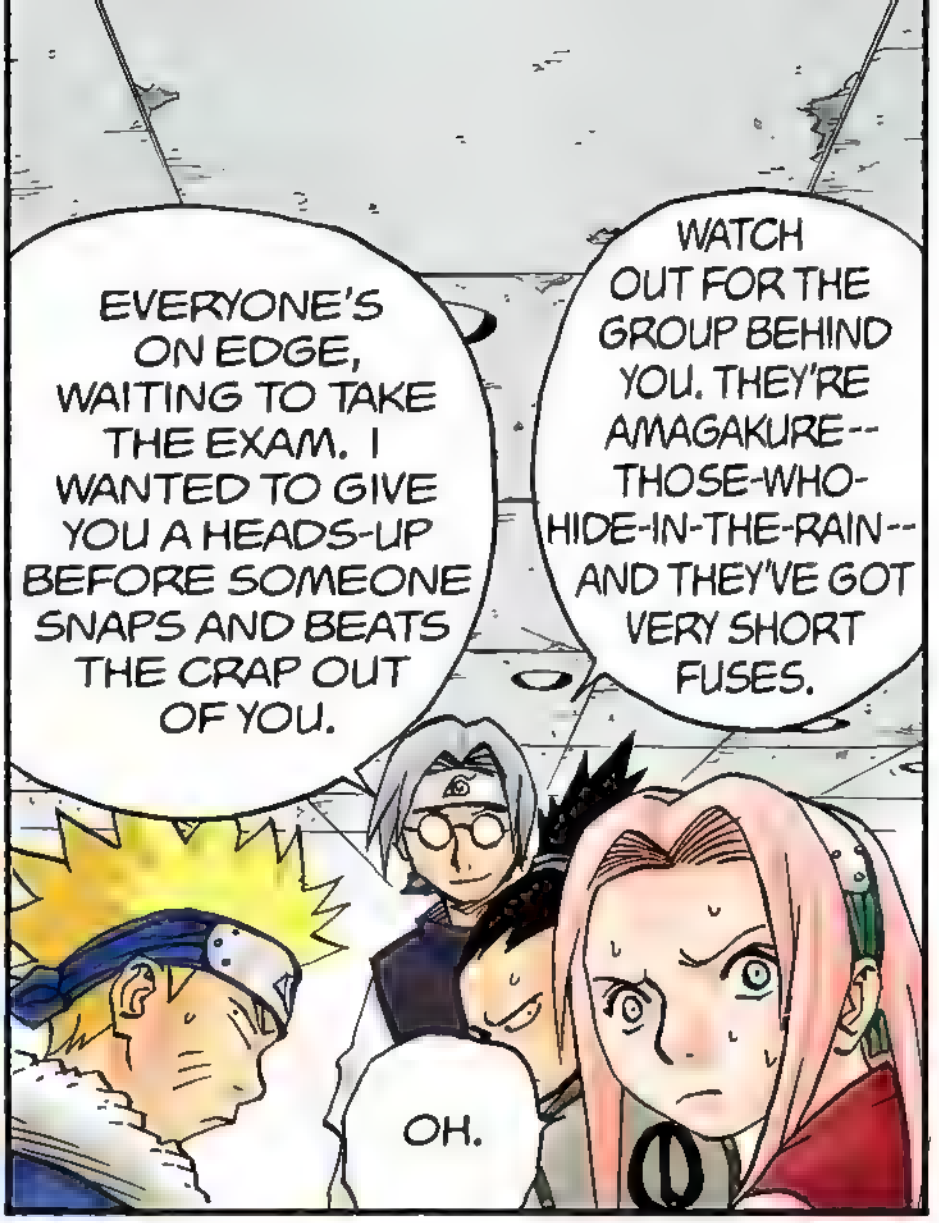
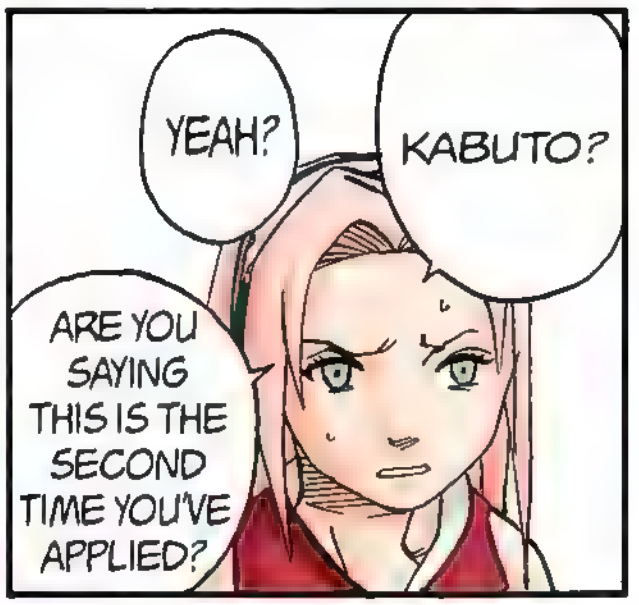





EVERYONE'S ON EDGE, WAITING TO TAKE THE EXAM. I WANTED TO GIVE YOU A HEADS-UP BEFORE SOMEONE SNAPS AND BEATS THE CRAP OUT OF YOU.
WATCH OUT FOR THE GROUP BEHIND YOU. THEY'RE AMAGAKURE-- THOSE-WHO-HIDE-IN-THE-RAIN-- AND THEY'VE GOT VERY SHORT FUSES.
OH.



...WITH THESE SHINOBI SKILL CARDS.
CUTE. OKAY... THE LEAST I CAN DO IS GIVE YOU SWEET LITTLE BABIES SOME VITAL INTELLIGENCE ON WHAT YOU'RE IN FOR...
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TO PUT IT SIMPLY, THEY CONTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SKILLS WE USE, TRANSFORMED INTO SYMBOLS AND BURNED INTO THE CARDS USING CHARKAS.

SHINOBI SKILL CARDS?

...IS BY USING MY OWN PERSONAL CHAKRA. EACH SET IS LINKED TO ITS POSSESSOR. FOR EXAMPLE, CARDS LIKE THIS ONE...

WHAT'S HE DOING?

IN ALL, THERE ARE ALMOST 200 CARDS.

IT TOOK ME FOUR YEARS TO COLLECT ALL THE INTELLIGENCE NEEDED FOR THIS EXAM.

THEY LOOK BLANK, DON'T THEY? THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN READ THE DATA ON THE CARDS...

IT SHOWS HOW MANY APPLICANTS EACH *SHINOBI* NATION IS SENDING TO THIS SESSION OF THE *CHŪNIN* JOURNEYMAN NINJA EXAMS.

IT'S SOME KIND OF COMBINATION MAP AND BAR GRAPH, IN THREE DIMENSIONS!

WHAT KIND OF INTELLIGENCE IS THIS?

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I'LL ADMIT THESE ARE FAR FROM COMPLETE, BUT I'VE BURNED A SET OF DOSSIER CARDS FOR THE CURRENT POOL OF APPLICANTS...

...INCLUDING YOUR TEAM. IF YOU SHARE ANY DATA YOU HAVE ON THIS PERSON WHO INTERESTS YOU, I'LL BE HAPPY TO LOOK HIM UP AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT I HAVE SO FAR.

DO YOU ALSO HAVE DOSSIER CARDS? CARDS FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT?

HA HA... WHY? SOMEONE HERE YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN?

GAARA, FROM SUNAGAKURE-- HIDE-IN-SAND-- AND ROCK LEE, FROM KONOHA.

YOU KNOW THEIR NAMES? NO SWEAT, THEN!

LET ME SEE THEM.

I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT THIS GUY'S TALKING ABOUT... BUT I'LL PLAY ALONG.

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HE WAS CONSIDERED A STANDOUT AMONG LAST YEAR'S *GENIN*... BUT HE DIDN'T APPLY FOR THE *CHÛNIN* EXAM.

HE'S A FRST-TIMER, LIKE YOU THREE. HIS TEAMMATES ARE NAMED HYUGA NEJI AND TENTEN.

FIRST UP IS ROCK LEE.

HE'S A YEAR OLDER THAN YOU THREE. MISSIONS TO DATE: 20 D-RANKED, 11 C-RANKED. HIS TEAM'S MENTOR IS MIGHT GUY...

AND HIS *TAIJUTSU* PHYSICAL SKILLS HAVE GROWN EXPONENTIALLY THIS PAST YEAR. HE HAS NO OTHER TALENTS WORTH MENTIONING.

SINCE HE'S FROM WAY OUT IN THE DESERT, I HAVE LESS ON HIM... BUT IT'S INTERESTING. HE'S COME BACK FROM EVERY MISSION COMPLETELY UNSCATHED.

WITHOUT A SCRATCH...

NEXT IS GAARA OF THE SAND... DESERT COUNTRY...

EIGHT C-RANKED MISSIONS... ONE B. WOW! NOT MANY ROOKIE SHINOBI GET B-RANKED ASSIGNMENTS!

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KONOHA, SUNA, AME, KUSA, TAKI, OTO... THIS YEAR, EVERY HIDDEN VILLAGE HAS SENT OUTSTANDING JUNIOR-LEVEL *GENIN* HERE TO COMPETE.

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT OTO, THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN SOUND. IT'S PART OF A NEW, SMALL NATION, SO INTELLIGENCE ON IT IS LACKING.

EVERY OTHER COMPETING VILLAGE IS WELL-RESPECTED, HOME TO SOME FORMIDABLY POWERFUL SHINOBI...

WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL US IS... EVERYONE HERE...

ANYBODY BESIDES ME SUDDENLY FEELING KIND OF OUTCLASSED?

OH, YEAH. THEY'RE ALL LIKE LEE AND GAARA...

ELITE, HAND-PICKED SHINOBI, THE BEST YOUNG NINJA IN THE WORLD.

301

THEY HAVE TO BE! THE TEST IS PITILESS!

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YOU'RE RUSHING THEM INTO IT!

IT'S A HARSH AND UNFORGIVING TEST, KAKASHI!

GIVE YOUR CELL TIME TO BUILD SOME STRENGTH.

HEH...

IRUKA WAS RIGHT!

MY KIDS ARE THE BEST, BUT I STILL GAVE THEM A YEAR TO MATURE BEFORE LETTING THEM APPLY.

ENOUGH OF THIS.

FOR OUR NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS, I'LL CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FOR GENIN CANDIDATES WHO HAVE PASSED THEIR FIRST YEAR.

WHAT MY KIDS LACK IN EXPERIENCE, THEY MORE THAN MAKE UP IN SURPRISES, GUY.

YOUR CELL WILL EAT THEIR DUST.

BAH!

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HAH! OVER ONE HURDLE...

301

THOSE THREE ARE UTTERLY FEARLESS...
こいつら考えが
...BUT EVEN THEY MUST BE A LITTLE UNEASY, WONDERING WHAT COMES NEXT.
...

とはいえ EVEN SO...
みたいの...

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LOOKS LIKE EVEN OUR TEAM'S OVERCONFIDENT BUTTHEAD HAS THE SHAKES.

!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, NARUTO. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

STILL, IT'S NOT LIKE NARUTO. MAYBE IF I GIVE HIM A LITTLE PEP TALK...

BUT WE 私たち THREE 新人 ARE THE YOUNGEST... ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS!

AND WHO CAN BLAME HIM? WE'RE ALL GENIN HERE...

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AND NONE OF YOU ARE GONNA BEAT ME!!!!

MY NAME IS UZUMAKI NARUTO!!

!!

...

YOU GOT THAT?

YEAH!

THAT FELT GREAT!

TYPICAL. TOO STUPID TO KNOW HE'S GOT PROBLEMS.

WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?!

OH, PLEASE!

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...

DIDN'T WE MEET HIM EARLIER?

SO... ACCORDING TO THIS DOSSIER, OUR TOWN IS AN UNKNOWN LITTLE VILLAGE IN A BACKWATER COUNTRY.

MORTIFYING, ISN'T IT?

MAYBE YOU WENT TOO EASY ON HIM, LEE.

KID'S GOT SOME LIFE IN HIM.

.....

WANT TO HAVE SOME FUN WITH THEM?

SOUNDS GOOD!

THAT TWIT, TREATING OTO LIKE SOME KIND OF AFTERTHOUGHT. LET'S GIVE HIM A LITTLE DATA FOR HIS DOSSIER. HIS UNDERSTANDING OF WE-WHO-HIDE-IN-SOUND IS... UNSOUND.

WE'LL SEE WHERE THE INTELLIGENCE IS LACKING...

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ナンバー 40：第一の試験!!

THE FIRST TEST!!

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THAT IDIOT TURNED A ROOM FULL OF STRANGERS INTO A ROOM FULL OF ENEMIES WITH JUST ONE SENTENCE.

"AND NONE OF YOU ARE GONNA BEAT ME!" THE NERVE OF THAT KID!

LITTLE SHOW-OFF!

キロ

I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!!

ガ

WHAT ARE YOU BLATHERING ABOUT?!

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SHALL WE?

HE'S... YOU KNOW... A SPECIAL-ED NINJA...

PAY NO ATTENTION TO MY FRIEND...

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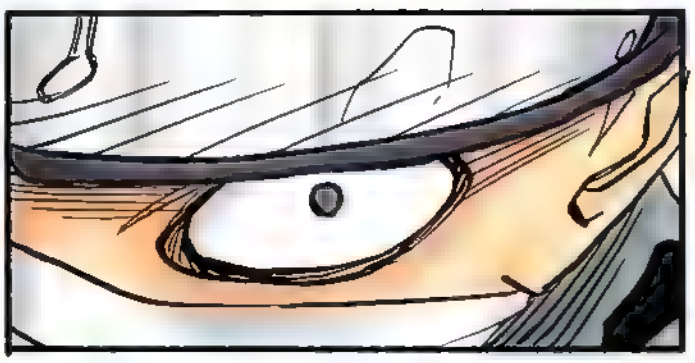

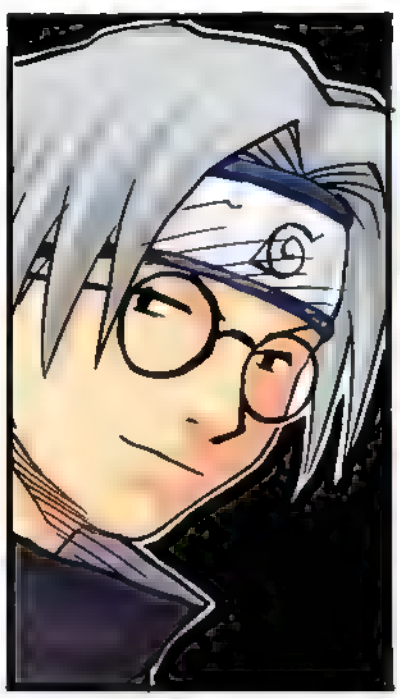

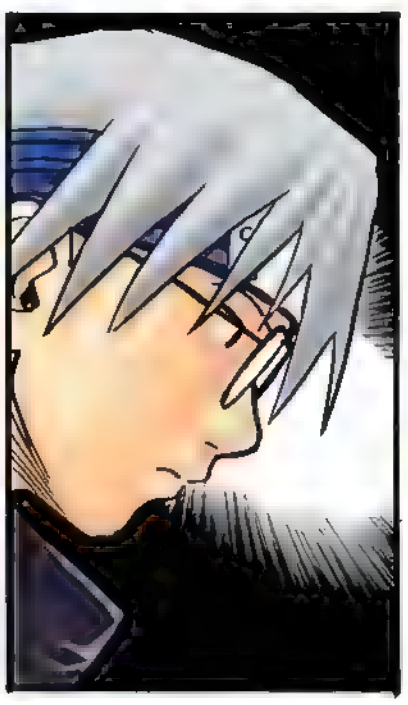

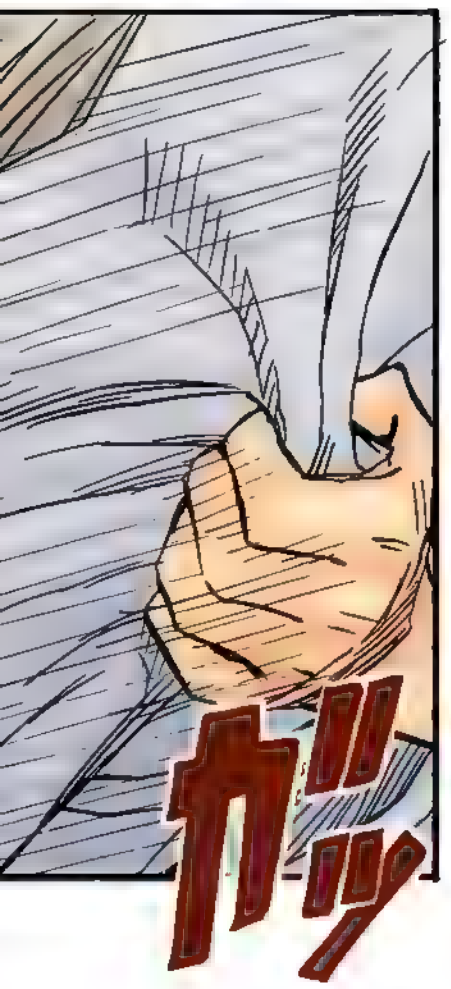

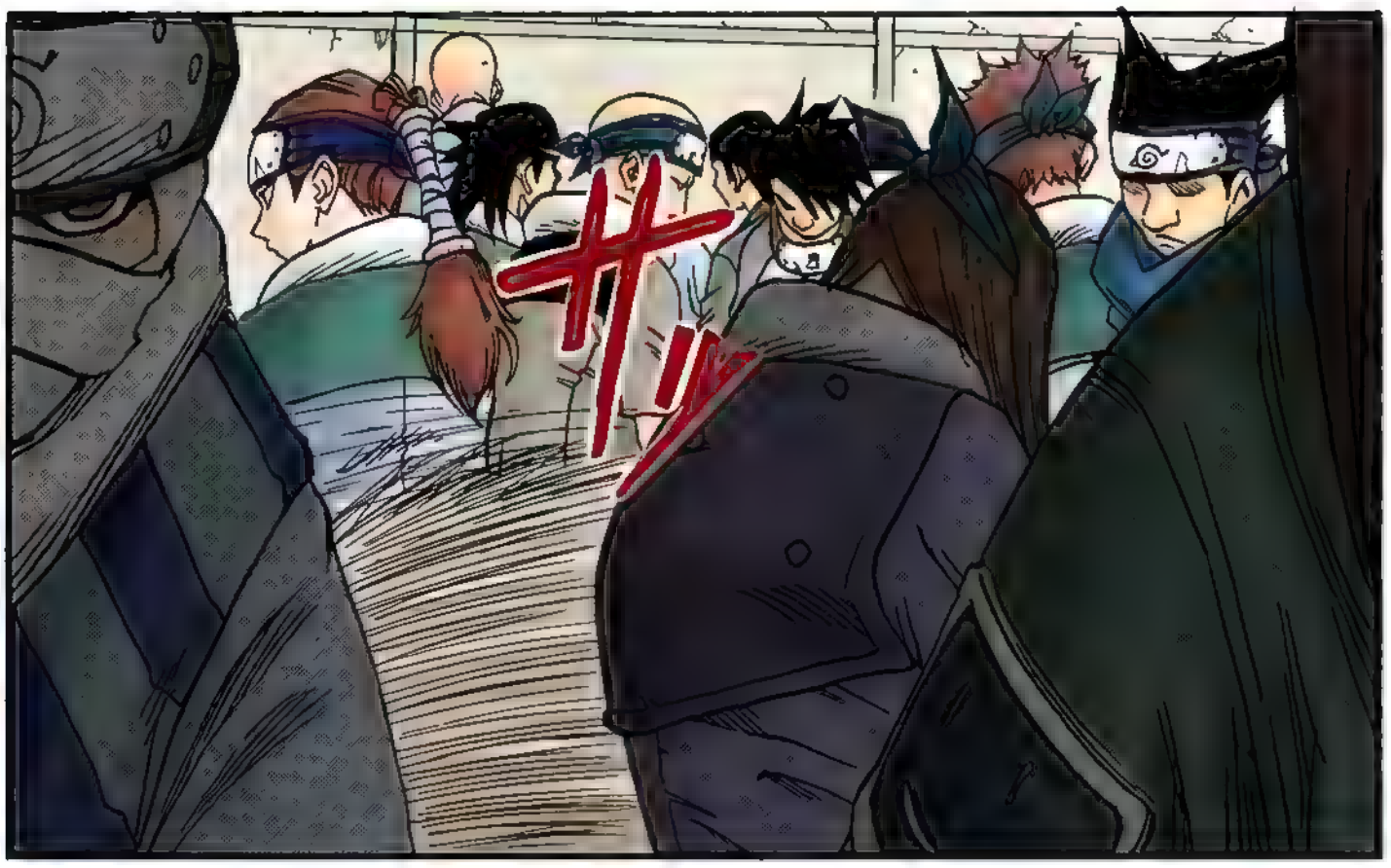

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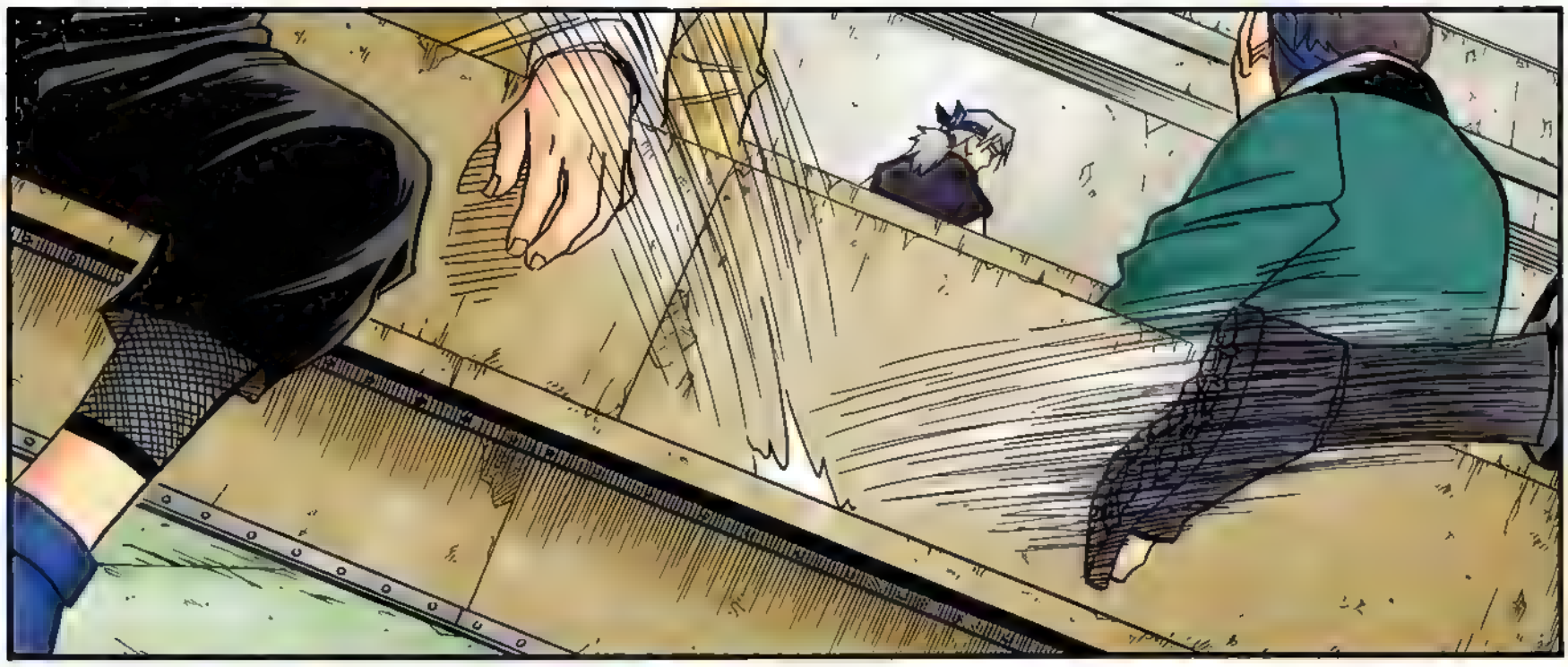

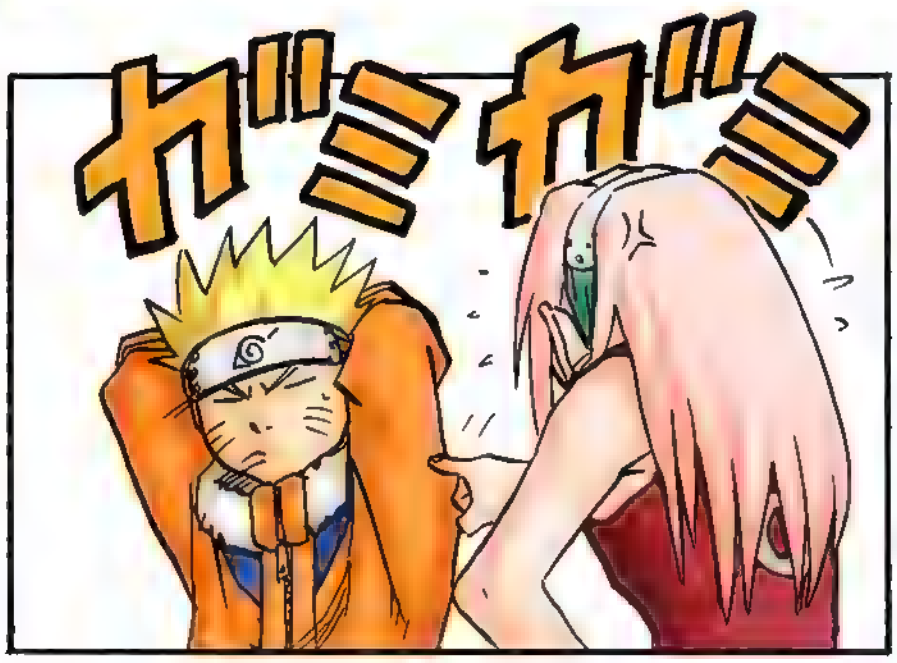

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MANGA.COM

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THEY'RE FROM SOUND...

!!

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HE DODGED IT!

SO QUICKLY I BARELY SAW HIM MOVE.

!

!

!?

WHAT'S GOING ON? HE DODGED THE BLOW, BUT SOMETHING BROKE HIS GLASSES!

HIS NOSE PROBABLY GOT GRAZED...

SERVES HIM RIGHT FOR ACTING ALL SUPERIOR.

HMMM... IT IS...

I SEE... THIS KIND OF ATTACK...

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KABUTO?

AW, MAN! HE'S HURLING!

BLORCH

ボロボロ

!!

NOTE: ABUMI'S SHIRT SAYS "DEATH."

死 死

HMPH.

YOU'RE A PUSHOVER, AREN'T YOU? PRETTY SAD FOR SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN AN APPLICANT FOR FOUR YEARS NOW.

...YEAH... I'M FINE...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

KABUTO!! HEY, BRO!

WHY DID HE VOMIT?

I KNOW KABUTO DUCKED THAT BLOW...SO WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

BETTER ADD THIS TO YOUR CARDS. THE THREE APPLICANTS FROM HIDING-IN-SOUND WILL ALL MAKE CHUNIN THIS YEAR!

LEE, WHAT DID THAT LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

KABUTO SAW THROUGH THE ATTACK... SO THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING ELSE TO IT, SOME TRICK THEY USED TO MAKE HIM SICK.

HMM...

WHAAA?!

WOULD EVERYBODY PLEASE JUST SHUT UP?!

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KAKASHI

MY NAME IS MORINO IBIKI. I'M THE PROCTOR AND CHIEF EXAMINER FOR THE FIRST PART OF THE EXAM.

SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING.

ヒソ

ULP!

SORRY, SIR.... IT'S OUR FIRST EXAM, AND WE GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.

...OR DO YOU WANT TO BE DISQUALIFIED?

YOU... THE KIDS FROM HIDING-IN-SOUND! YOU CAN'T CARRY ON ANY WAY YOU PLEASE WHEN THE EXAM'S ABOUT TO START!

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AND EVEN IF THAT PERMISSION IS GRANTED, ANYTHING THAT ENDANGERS ANOTHER APPLICANT'S LIFE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.

FROM THIS POINT FORWARD, THERE WILL BE NO MORE FIGHTING WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE EXAMINING OFFICER...

THEN IT'S HIGH TIME SOMEONE LAID DOWN A FEW GROUND RULES.

IS THAT SO?

GOT THAT?

ANY OF YOU LITTLE PIGLETS WHO BREAK THAT RULE ARE OUT. DISQUALIFIED. NO SECOND CHANCES.

ニヤニヤ

SO THIS IS A TEST FOR LITTLE GIRLY MEN?

...

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TURN IN YOUR WRITTEN APPLICATIONS, TAKE ONE OF THESE SEATING ASSIGNMENT CARDS...

AS YOU WISH. THE FIRST PART OF THE SELECTION EXAM IS ABOUT TO COMMENCE.

WHEN EVERYONE'S SEATED, WE'LL PASS OUT THE WRITTEN PART OF THE TEST.

1

... AND REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE SEAT INDICATED.

A-

A

PAPER TEST?!

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THIS MUST BE NARUTO'S WORST NIGHTMARE. HE LOOKS ABSOLUTELY CRUSHED!

AW, MAN-- WE'RE SPREAD OUT ALL OVER THE ROOM.

NOW WHAT DO I DO?

NARUTO...

53

53

NOW LISTEN UP.

PAPERS FACE DOWN UNTIL I GIVE THE SIGNAL.

OH! I DIDN'T EVEN SEE YOU, HINATA.

L-LET'S DO OUR BEST!

THIS CHICK'S A REGULAR INVISIBLE GIRL!

RULES?

AND NO QUESTIONS?! WHY NOT?

I'LL WRITE THEM ON THE BLACKBOARD AND EXPLAIN THEM ALL, BUT I'M NOT TAKING QUESTIONS, SO LISTEN CAREFULLY. I WILL SAY THIS ONLY ONCE.

THERE ARE A FEW BIG RULES THAT PERTAIN TO THIS FIRST TEST.

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THE TEST HAS TEN QUESTIONS, EACH WORTH ONE POINT.

FOR EACH QUESTION YOU GET WRONG, WE SUBTRACT A POINT FROM YOU.

RULE NUMBER ONE! EACH ONE OF YOU STARTS OUT HERE WITH TEN POINTS.

BUT IF, FOR EXAMPLE, YOU ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS INCORRECTLY, WE TAKE YOUR TEN POINTS...

...SUBTRACT ONE POINT FOR EVERY WRONG ANSWER... AND YOUR TOTAL DROPS DOWN TO SEVEN.

TOTAL POINTS

EXAMPLE 1.
PERFECT SCORE
TOTAL POINTS
REMAIN AT 10

EXAMPLE 2.
3 ANSWERS WRONG
TOTAL POINTS
ARE REDUCED TO 7 POINTS

GET ALL TEN RIGHT, AND YOU RETAIN THE TEN POINTS YOU HAVE.

PASSING OR FAILING WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE SUM OF THE POINTS HELD BY ALL THREE MEMBERS OF EACH CELL.

RULE NUMBER 2... THIS WRITTEN TEST IS STILL A TEAM EVENT.

IN OTHER WORDS, IF I GET ALL TEN QUESTIONS WRONG, I'LL END UP WITH NO POINTS AT ALL!

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THE WHOLE CONCEPT OF THE STARTING POINTS AND THE DEDUCTIONS IS HARD ENOUGH TO FOLLOW... BUT WHAT IS THIS "TEAM TOTAL" YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

W-WAIT A SECOND!

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THE OBJECT IS FOR EACH TEAM TO HAVE AS FEW DEDUCTIONS AS POSSIBLE FROM ITS JOINT THIRTY-POINT TOTAL.

WHAT REASONS...?

THIS NEXT BIT IS CRUCIAL.

SHUT UP AND LISTEN. YOU MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING.

DID YOU NOT HEAR THE PART ABOUT "NO QUESTIONS"? WE HAVE OUR REASONS.

...WE SUBTRACT TWO POINTS FROM EACH MEMBER OF THE CHEATER'S TEAM.

...IN OTHER WORDS, ANYTHING THAT LEADS THE PROCTORS TO DETERMINE THAT HE OR SHE HAS CHEATED...

RULE NUMBER 3: IF, DURING THE COURSE OF THE EXAM, A CANDIDATE DOES ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY...

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なるほど…
I GET IT...

筆記
減点
作
THERE ARE MORE WAYS TO LOSE A POINT THAN JUST MISSING A QUESTION.
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EXACTLY! IN ALL PROBABILITY, SOME OF YOU WILL RUN THROUGH YOUR ENTIRE ALLOWANCE OF POINTS DURING THE TEST. IF SO, YOU'LL BE FAILED AND ASKED TO LEAVE.

OH!

I'LL BE LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDERS WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT.

ギィ

IF YOU ASPIRE TO BECOME *CHÛNIN*...

...IF YOU WANT TO BE THE BEST SHINOBI YOU CAN BE...

... THEN YOU'D BETTER START ACTING LIKE YOU ALREADY ARE!

IF YOU LET THE PROCTORS CATCH YOU CHEATING, YOU'LL BRING YOURSELF AND YOUR FRIENDS DOWN!

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GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, SAKURA. IT'S TOO BAD ABOUT NARUTO, BUT SASUKE AND I SHOULD BE ABLE TO RETAIN ENOUGH POINTS FOR ALL THREE OF US.

...EVEN IF NARUTO GETS EVERY SINGLE ANSWER WRONG! 私達がたとえ!!

ONE MORE THING...

IF ANY INDIVIDUAL LOSES ALL TEN OF HIS OR HER POINTS, THAT PERSON'S ENTIRE CELL, REGARDLESS OF HOW THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS DO...

...WILL BE DISQUALIFIED!!

!!

WHAT?!

WHAT?!

I CAN FEEL THEM FROM HERE... BOTH WANTING TO KILL ME ALREADY!

...

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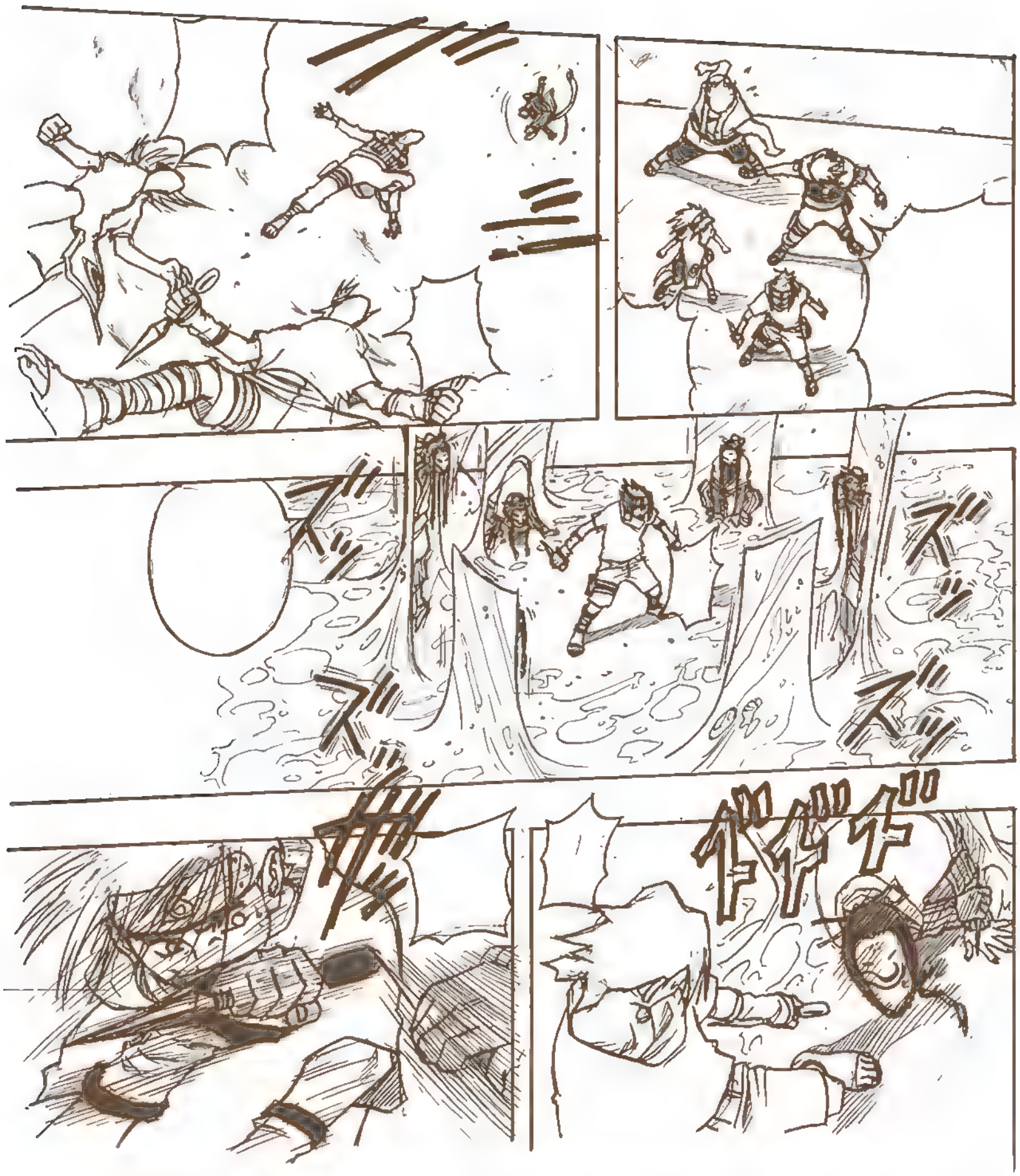

KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S "I ONLY SHOW YOU THESE THINGS SO YOU'LL UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH I LOVE MANGA" REJECTS CORNER...

THE MANGA PAGE ABOVE IS A REJECTED PAGE FROM NARUTO. THIS PAGE HAD BEEN THUMBNAILED, BROKEN DOWN IN PENCIL, AND THEN FINISHED IN INK... BUT I STILL REDREW IT, BECAUSE I JUST DIDN'T FEEL IT WAS UP TO SNUFF. THE LAYOUT WAS TOO STATIC, AND THE PANELS WERE TOO SMALL FOR THE KIND OF DYNAMIC, IMPORTANT ACTION THIS SEQUENCE CALLED FOR. TRYING TO MAINTAIN A WEEKLY PUBLISHING SCHEDULE LEAVES ME VERY LITTLE TIME FOR THE LUXURY OF FUSSING OVER ART, SO IT'S PRETTY RARE TO REDO ANYTHING ONCE IT'S DOWN ON PAPER... BUT IF SOMETHING FEELS SO WRONG THAT I KNOW IT NEEDS FIXING, THEN I COMMIT TO THE CHANGE, NO MATTER HOW SET IN STONE I THINK MY STORY OUTLINE AND THUMBNAIL DRAWINGS ARE, AND NO MATTER HOW FAR ALONG I'VE GOTTEN IN THE FINISHED ART. IF SOMETHING REALLY FEELS WRONG, I'VE GOT TO RESPECT MY OWN CREATIVE GUT INSTINCTS. YOU KNOW... SEEING IT IN WRITING... I THINK I MAY HAVE JUST FIGURED OUT WHY I SOMETIMES HAVE TROUBLE MEETING DEADLINES!

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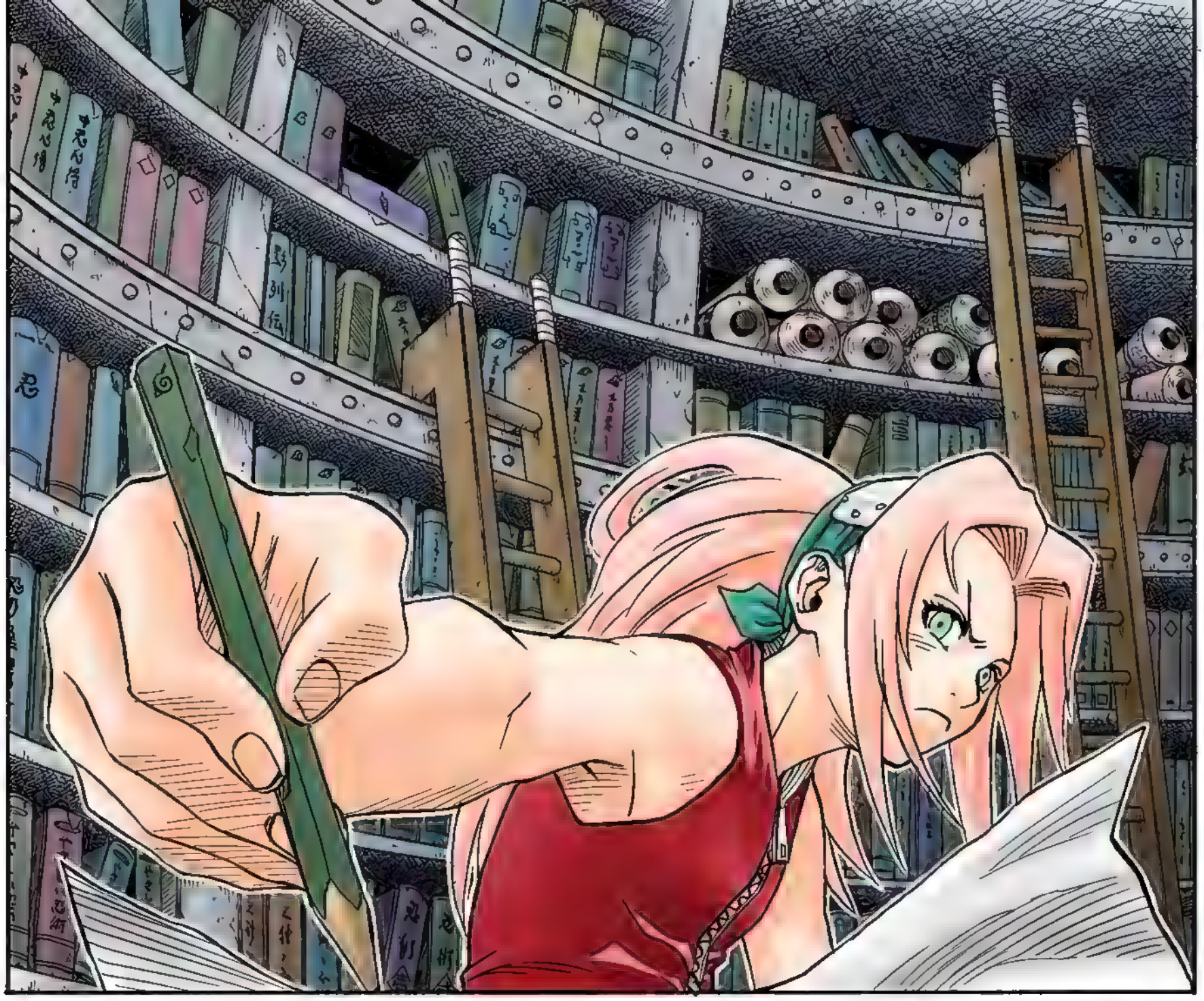

THE *CHUNIN* JOURNEYMAN NINJA SELECTION EXAM
RULES FOR PART ONE

(1) EACH APPLICANT BEGINS WITH A PERFECT SCORE OF TEN POINTS. THERE ARE TEN QUESTIONS WORTH ONE POINT APIECE. A POINT IS SUBTRACTED FOR EVERY INCORRECT ANSWER. THE GRADING SYSTEM IS ENTIRELY BASED ON A PRINCIPLE OF PENALIZATION.

(2) THE EXAM IS A TEAM EVENT. WHAT MATTERS IS HOW CLOSE EACH THREE-NINJA CELL CAN COME TO RETAINING ITS INITIAL THIRTY POINTS.

(3) ANYONE CAUGHT ATTEMPTING TO CHEAT OR AIDING AND ABETTING A CHEATER WILL LOSE TWO POINTS FOR EACH OFFENSE.

(4) ANYONE WHO HAS NO POINTS LEFT AT THE TEST'S END--WHETHER DUE TO BEING CAUGHT CHEATING OR TO AN INABILITY TO ANSWER ANY OF THE QUESTIONS CORRECTLY--WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL; IF A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL FAILS, THE REMAINING TWO MEMBERS OF THAT PERSON'S CELL WILL BE FAILED AS WELL.

ナンバー 41 悪魔(あくま)の囁(ささや)き…!?

THE WHISPER OF DEMONS...?

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...STARTING...

ｺﾞｺﾞｺﾞ...

YOU HAVE ONE HOUR...

...NOW!

...TRY TO HANG ON TO AT LEAST **ONE** OF YOUR POINTS!!

PLEASE, NARUTO...

THIS COULD BE A NO WIN SITUATION...

...SAY IT ISN'T SO...

カリカリ

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HERE I AM AGAIN... FACING THE WORST KIND OF ENEMY! TEACHERS DIDN'T CALL ME THE ALL-TIME DUNCE FOR NOTHING!

I EARNED THAT NAME ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE!

HEH HEH HEH... THIS IS FUNNY...

HEH...

...

プルプル

REMAIN CALM... DON'T TRY TO DO EVERYTHING AT ONCE. LOOK EACH QUESTION SQUARE IN THE EYE. TRY TO FIND THE WEAKEST LINK... THE EASY ONE. SEPARATE IT FROM THE HERD, AND TAKE IT DOWN.

THE TRICK IS NOT TO SHOW ANY FEAR. TESTS CAN SMELL FEAR!

HMM.. HH-HH- HMMM... ♪

中忍選抜 "第一の試

第1問
次の暗号文を解読し、要約

THEY WANT US TO WORK OUR BUTTS OFF!

WHOA. FIRST UP IS CRYPTO-GRAPHY.

...

ねいナ NARUTO IS AN IDIOT... I JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T PANIC. んじゃ

ヤバ THIS IS SO NOT GOOD!

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...I WONDER HOW NARUTO'S DOING...

NEXT!

"CALCULATE THE SPECIFIC FEATURES OF THE SCENARIO AND DEDUCE THE RANGE OF THE SHURIKEN'S EFFECTIVENESS, ASSUMING A CONSISTENT SPEED FOR SHINOBI A'S ASSAULT UPON ANY ENEMY SHINOBI OPERATI WITHIN THE ARC THAT THE FLIGHT OF THE SHURIKEN DESCRIBES. SHOW YOUR WORK."

UM... NUMBER TWO...

"THE PARABOLA MARKED B REPRESENTS THE GREATEST EFFECTIVE DISTANCE THE ENEMY SHINOBI, A, COULD THROW A SHURIKEN STAR FROM THE TOP OF A 23.3-FOOT TALL TREE...

..BUT I'VE GOT TO CONCENTRATE ON MY OWN WORK!

I'VE GOT TO HANG ONTO ALL MY POINTS TO MAKE UP FOR HIM...

OF COURSE, NEITHER CAN MOST OF THE PEOPLE HERE.

IT'S A KILLER...

'COURSE, I CAN ANSWER IT.

THERE'S NO WAY NARUTO COULD SOLVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS!!

THIS...? THIS IS... TO SOLVE THIS, YOU NEED TO HYPOTHESIZE UNDER VERY UNCERTAIN CONDITIONS... AND THEN APPLY THE LAWS OF KINETICS TO WHATEVER YOU COME UP WITH!

ルキーの

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HEH...
HEH.

HMF.

第10問
この問題に限り、試験開始後45分
た上で、

QUESTION NUMBER 10
THIS QUESTION WILL NOT BE PROVIDED UNTIL FORTY-FIVE MINUTES INTO THE EXAM.
AT THAT TIME, PLEASE ANSWER THE PROCTOR'S QUESTION TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.

AND WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH NUMBER TEN?

WELL, WELL...

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ANSWER A SINGLE ONE OF THESE QUESTIONS.

SIGH

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FAIL

Aw...

MAN, AM I SCREWED ツゞHERE. TOTALLY. SERIOUSLY. FATALLY SCREWED!

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MANGA.COM

WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?

WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?

I'VE GOT TO BE SLY... SNEAKY...

GRRRR...

...

CRAAAP!

THEY'RE WATCHING US. こも…い入れよう…

オレ達がカンニングするって LIKE CATS WATCH MICE. THEY EXPECT US TO CHEAT. THOSE RATS! な や嫌(イヤ)な奴らだ…

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ANGA.COM

...MAKES IT PRETTY CLEAR THAT WE'RE COMPETING AGAINST EACH OTHER, OBVIOUSLY, ONLY THE TEAMS THAT KEEP THE MOST POINTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO PASS.

...にん 選 ぐみ 組 が

I JUST WISH I KNEW WHERE THE CUT OFF LIES- HOW MANY OF THE TOP TEAMS CAN PASS...

ームが るように のかしら…

RULE NUMBER 2...

……

!

カ!

YOU KNOW... THE ONE THING I KEEP WONDERING...

……BUT THE UNCERTAINTY IS DRIVING ME NUTS.

も知 NO つ THAT. KNOWING WOULD CHANGE ANYTHING...

と…

!

!

HEE- HEE- HEE- HEE- HEE!

...IS HOW MANY OF THE TOP-RANKING TEAMS THEY INTEND TO PASS.

...

3

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UNLESS YOU'RE HOPING TO FAIL.

KNOWING THAT NOW ISN'T GOING TO HELP YOU, IS IT?

...ALL THREE OF US HAVE TO RETAIN AS MANY POINTS AS POSSIBLE.

IF ONLY ABOUT TEN OF THE FIFTY-ONE TEAMS HERE CAN PAS...

I THOUGHT SO!

I-I'M SORRY...

...BUT THEY WOULDN'T. THEY COULDN'T. NOT EVEN NARUTO IS THAT STUPID...

...IS HE?

REMAIN CALM...

ABOVE ALL, PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

THE SYSTEM IS SET UP SO IT ALMOST FORCES YOU TO CHEAT.

I JUST HOPE SASUKE AND NARUTO DON'T-PANIC AND TRY TO TAKE THAT WAY OUT.

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MY ONLY HOPE IS TO CHEAT SO WELL THEY DON'T CATCH ME!!!

WITH SO MANY PROCTORS LOOKING OVER OUR SHOULDERS, THEY'RE PROBABLY WATCHING EVERY LITTLE THING EVERY ONE OF US DOES... MAKING NOTES ABOUT US IN THEIR GRADEBOOKS!

...

ポカポカ ポカ

DANGER! DANGER! DO NOT GO THERE! だめよ！

NO WAY! NO WAY! DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!

COLORED MANGA.COM

IF YOU LET THE 個 PROCTORS CATCH UOI CHEATING, YOU'LL BRING YOURSELF AND YOUR FRIENDS DOWN!
得 つた者は てもらおう

THE AXE HAS FALLEN SOMEWHERE ...!
な

カリ カリ

HOLD IT!!

IF YOU ASPIRE TO BECOME CHÛNIN... ...IF YOU WANT TO BE THE BEST SHINOBI YOU CAN BE... ... THEN YOU'D BETTER START ACTING LIKE YOU ALREADY ARE!

...

YOU'RE HISTORY IF YOU DON'T FIGURE IT OUT!

THEY'RE ALSO TESTING...
テストは ならば

WAKE UP, NARUTO!

UNBELIEVABLE... THIS IS AN "INTELLIGENCE" TEST... IN MORE THAN JUST THE ACADEMIC SENSE!

ソワソワ

...

NOW I GET IT!! ことか!

THEY WANT US TO CHEAT... LIKE あ SHINOBI!

...OUR 力 INFORMATION-GATHERING SKILLS! を 公認の

...REALLY, WELL! THE WAY THE BEST SHINOBI WOULD, IF THEY NEEDED THIS KIND OF INFORMATION IN A REAL 実 WORLD MISSION!3 べし ク なら

本：か 忍 SHINOBI MUST LEARN TO UNCOVER THE SECRETS WITHIN SECRETS. THE PROCTORS WANT US TO CHEAT... の め

WHAT WE'RE BEING TESTED ON IS NOT WHETHER WE KNOW THE ANSWERS... のは

...BUT HOW SKILLFULLY WE CAN DISCOVER THEM! 気取 い カ 官と をされる者に ず 正確な答えを 集め とができるか…

...THE REAL MESSAGE IS THAT YOU CAN BE CAUGHT FOUR 回 TIMES BEFORE YOU FACE DISQUALIFICATION! 回の 覚1回につき いう甘さ… も納得がいく

LOOK AT HOW THEY SET UP THE "PERFECT SCORE, MINUS PENALTIES" SCENARIO! WITH TWO POINTS DEDUCTED EVEY TIME YOU GET CAUGHT CHEATING... いう

ANY MINUTE NOW, EVERYONE WHO'S FIGURED IT OUT WILL START GOING FOR IT!

COME ON, NARUTO!

スウ..

STOP GLARING AT ME. なって

I GET IT ALREADY. ん

ギロ

ギッ

DON'T FAIL ME, SCARECROW...

GAARA'S STARTED, TOO, HUH?

!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

WOO-HOO! GOOD BOY, AKAMARU! NEXT IS QUESTION NUMBER 4...

WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!

キョロ キョロ

EXCELLENT! TELL ME MORE!

NNNNNN

カリカリ

ワイ ワイ

NUMBER EIGHT, HUNH?

COLORED MANGA.COM

ギュ!!

LEE, IF YOU CAN SEE IT, ADJUST YOUR HEADBAND...

FROM THE RHYTHM, THE WRITING ORDER, AND NUMBER OF STROKES THAT GO INTO THE WORDS...

カリカリ

カリカリ

カリカリ

...GOT IT...

COLORED MANGA.COM

BYAKUGAN! THE ALL-SEEING EVIL EYE!

スウ。

...MOVE!

THAT'S THE ONE. I'M GOING TO MIMIC HIS EVERY...

COLORED MANGA.COM

USING THE SHARINGAN COPY EYE!!

RATS!! ああ!!

IF こD I DON'T CHEAT, I'M DEAD ANYWAY! グじが

コチ コチ

AAAARGH! ああ

よ I'M ALMOST OUT- OF TIME! じかん ば が

!!

AAH!!

!!

ヒュー

COLORED MANGA.COM

THAT WAS CLOSE...

I WAS ABOUT TO TURN AROUND.

THAT'S FIVE STRIKES...

...AND YOU'RE OUT!

WH-WHAT WAS THAT FOR?

TAKE YOUR TEAMMATES WITH YOU. OUT OF THIS CLASSROOM.

NOW.

NO WAY...

N...

COLORED MANGA.COM

N-NARUTO...

WHEW! THAT WAS TOO CLOSE! NO WAY AM I GONNA RISK CHEATING... I'M NOT ALONE!

うっ…危ねーぞ!!

DANG!

YOU'RE DONE HERE. MOVE IT!

テクテク

!

YOU CAN LOOK AT MY PAPER, IF YOU WANT TO...

HUNH?

COLORED MANGA.COM

OLORED
ANGA.COM

Number 42:

To Each His Own

NARUTO... PLEASE...

LOOK AT MY ANSWERS.

WH- WHAT'S HINATA TALKING ABOUT?

WHY WOULD SHE HELP ME?

.....

!!

OH... NO! NO WAY!

IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF TRICK!

!

UNLESS KIBA AND THE OTHERS PUT HER UP TO IT... FORCED HER.

BUT THAT WOULD BE SUCH A DIRTY TRICK... HINATA'S NOT THAT KIND OF GIRL...

ｶｱｰ...

.....

IT'S... IT'S JUST...

ドキ...

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU IF YOU HELP ME?!

LEVEL WITH ME!

I... ...YOU...

ULP!

モジ モジ

.....

I DON'T WANT YOU... TO HAVE TO LEAVE SO SOON, NARUTO.

OH... OKAY. HEH... I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE...

SORRY FOR DOUBTING YOU.

エヘヘ

?

.....

あたふた

...THE ODDS WILL BE BETTER FOR ALL OF US... IF WE STICK TOGETHER.. AT LEAST FOR NOW...

W-WELL, YOU KNOW... THERE ARE ONLY NINE OF US NEWBIES, AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE FACING...

スリ

HMM-
HH- ♪
HHMM...

GOOD THING HINATA WAS NEXT TO ME!

THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY.

BOY!

.....

カリ

!!

カリカリ

EH?

HUH?

DON'T YOU GET IT?

HINATA...

A WORLD-CLASS NINJA LIKE ME JUST ISN'T THE KIND OF GUY WHO CHEATS!

... I DON'T WANT YOU TO PAY FOR HAVING HELPED ME!!!

BESIDES... IF I GET BUSTED...

NARUTO... B-BUT...

.....

CAN'T AFFORD TO MESS UP HERE!

ANYWAY... IF I GET CAUGHT DOING THE CRIME, SAKURA AND THAT JERK SASUKE ARE GONNA HAVE TO DO THE TIME

NARUTO!

HUH?

キュ〜ン

GREAT. SHE BELIEVED ME. NOW I'VE GOT MY HONOR...

AND I'M SCREWED!

...TRYING TO BE A BIG SHOT.

HEY, NO PROBLEM.

I-I'M SORRY I BOTHERED YOU...

カリ カリ カリ カリ

THE TEST'S BEEN GOING FOR HALF AN HOUR... ONLY ANOTHER HALF LEFT!

カチ カチ

カチ カチ

AT THIS POINT...

...THAT LAST QUESTION IS MY ONLY HOPE.

QUESTION NUMBER 10 THIS QUESTION WILL NOT BE PROVIDED UNTIL FORTY-FIVE MINUTES INTO THE EXAM. AT THAT TIME, PLEASE ANSWER THE PROCTOR'S QUESTION TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.

I WAS GOING TO TRY TO MIMIC TWO OR THREE OTHER STUDENTS TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE...

I'VE BEEN WRITING NON-STOP.

カリ カリ

THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME TO DO BUT WAIT FOR THE TENTH QUESTION.

THAT'S IT! I'VE ANSWERED THEM ALL!

TIME TO MAKE MY MOVE! ♡

IT LOOKS LIKE SAKURA HAS FINALLY STOPPED WRITING. ♡

BUT I HIT THE TARGET DEAD CENTER ON MY FIRST TRY.

カリ

カリ

...SO YOU OUGHT TO FEEL HONORED... ♡

SAKURA... YOUR BROAD BROW AND BIG BRAIN HAVE EARNED MY RESPECT...

ゴテ

WELL THEN, HERE IT COMES... ♡

...THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE TARGET OF MY SIGNATURE TECHNIQUE! ♡

NO ONE CAN WITHSTAND HER WHEN SHE STARTS THAT ASTRAL-PROJECTION STUFF!

SHE MUST BE USING THAT TECHNIQUE OF HERS...

INO'S ASLEEP.

ZZZ

!!

!

ヒソ

SAKURA...

YOU'RE A DEAR, LETTING ME POSSESS YOU LIKE THIS... AND SEE ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS! ♡

HEH HEH HEH...

SORRY, SAKURA... NOT.

NEXT I'LL POSSESS SHIKAMARU AND CHOJI, AND WRITE THESE ANSWERS ON THEIR PAPERS! CLEVER LITTLE ME! ♡

GOT IT!

YES!

HAVE TO MEMORIZE THIS QUICKLY, BEFORE SOMEONE CATCHES ME. ♡

ON YOUR FEET, NUMBER 102.

YOU FAIL.

NO WAY!!

YOU TOO, NUMBER 23.

YOU'RE OUT!

コチ

コチ

DANG... D...

THAT'S THIRTEEN CELLS THEY'VE FLUNKED OUT SO FAR!

コチ

NUMBER 43 AND NUMBER 27... START WALKING.

YOU ALL FAIL!

コチ

HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY WATCH THIS MANY STUDENTS AT ONCE?!

CHEATED FIVE TIMES?! ME? WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE?

AAGH!!

YOU FEEL THIS? WELL, I AM AS SKILLED AS I AM POWERFUL!

!!

GULP

LISTEN UP AND LISTEN GOOD. WE PROCTORS ARE THE ELITE. EVEN IN A GROUP AS SKILLED AS THE ONE GATHERED HERE TODAY, WE ARE FAR AND AWAY THE BEST. WE MISS NOTHING!

YOU GOT THAT, KIDS?

OW...

!!!

THAT BRAT IS UP TO SOME-THING

HMMF...

FOR A ROOKIE HE'S AMAZING.

WHATEVER IT IS, HE'S DOING IT WITHOUT TURNING A HAIR ... PERFECTLY CALM IN THE EYE OF THIS HURRICANE

MY OPTIC NERVE IS RECON-NECTED

...

OPEN-ING MY THIRD EYE!!!

愛

SKUFF

バチェ！

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SOME-THING IN MY EYE...

OW!

BLAST IT...!

スウー

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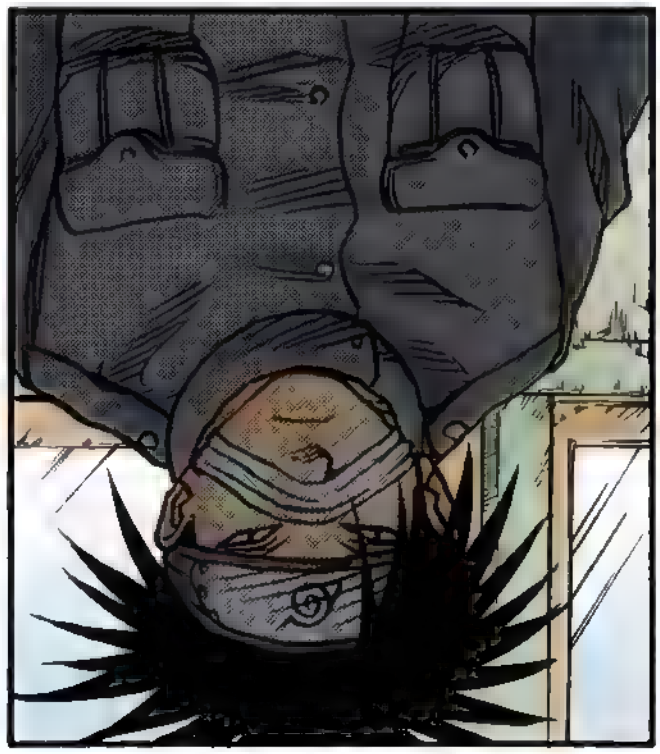
114
114



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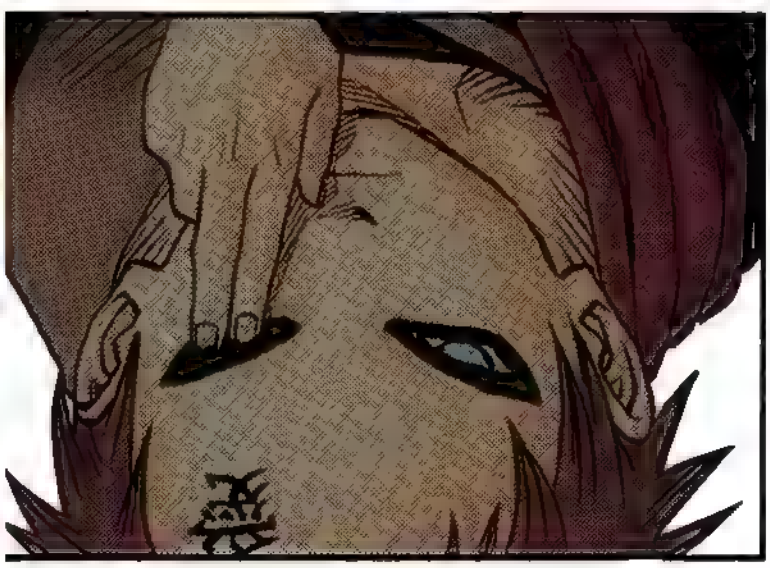
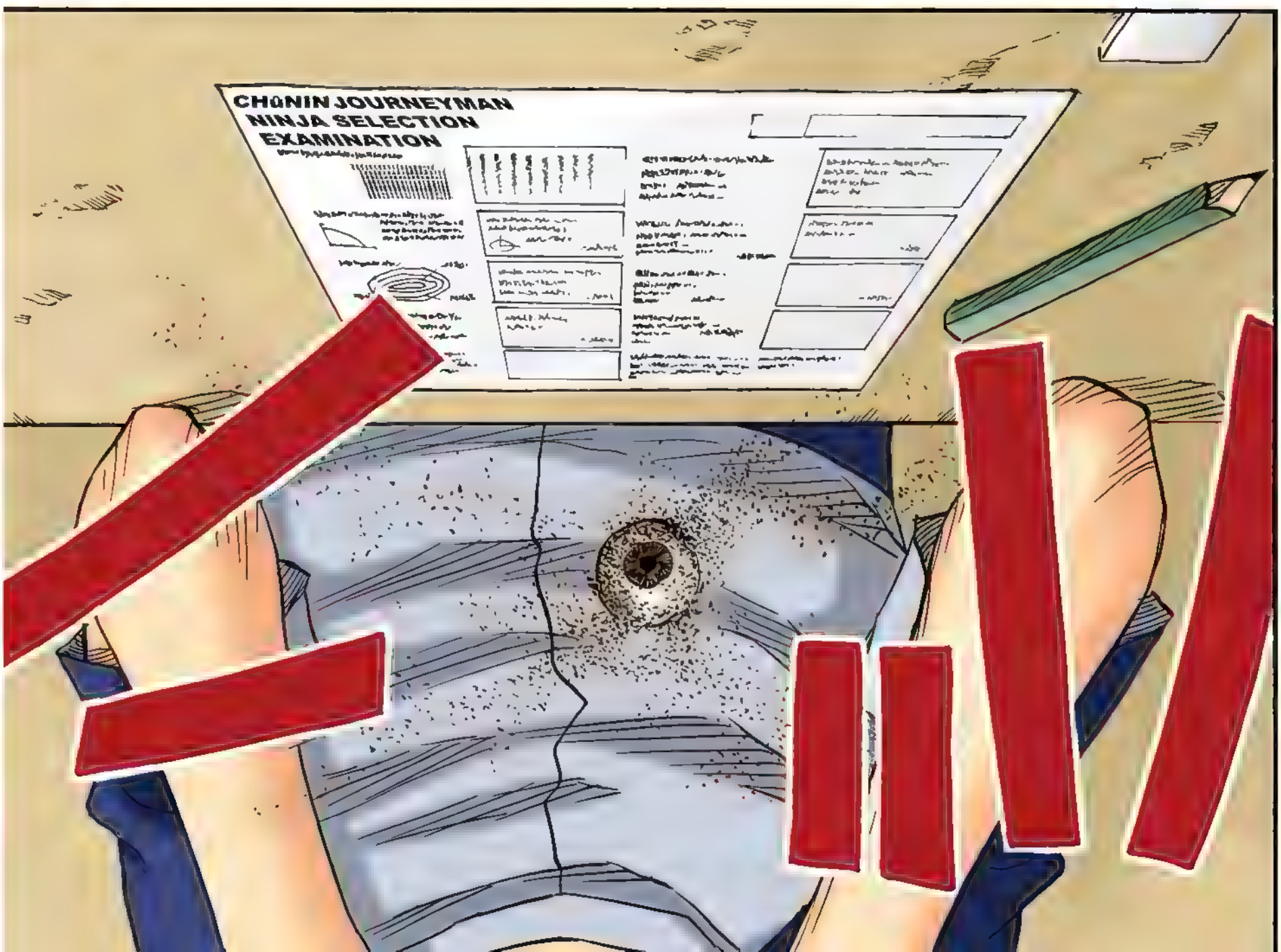



CHUNIN JOURNEYMAN
NINJA SELECTION
EXAMINATION

I'VE GOT TO GO TO THE BATH-ROOM...

WHAT IS IT?

EXCUSE ME.

WHY NOT?

OF COURSE. ONE OF THE PROCTORS WILL ACCOMPANY YOU.

THEY THINK THEY'RE SO SLICK!

便所

NICE GOING, SCARECROW

PRETTY SAD!

AND THEY NEVER EVEN NOTICED THAT THERE'S BEEN ONE EXTRA PROCTOR THIS WHOLE TIME!

ポロ ポロ

FORTY-FIVE MINUTES HAVE PASSED. THE TIME HAS COME.

NOW THAT WE'VE WEEDED OUT THE WORST OF THE SLACKERS...

LET'S MOVE ON TO THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION.

...NOW THEN, GIVE ME ALL THE ANSWERS IN ORDER, STARTING WITH NUMBER ONE. HEH HEH HEH...

フル フル

SIGH...

ドキーン

!! !!

HERE IT COMES!!

GET READY FOR THE TENTH QUESTION!

CORRECT?

Number 43:

The Tenth Question

JUST ONE MORE MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB!

MR. BIG SHOT... HA!

I'M RISKING IT ALL ON ONE ROLL OF THE DICE.

ｸﾞｯｯ

……!!

AND BEFORE WE GET TO THE QUESTION ITSELF...

...I'M ADDING ONE MORE NEW RULE.

I WAS SUPPOSED TO GET YOUR FIRST NINE ANSWERS BEFORE THEY GAVE US THE TENTH QUESTION.

YOU BETTER HURRY BACK, KANKURO!

!!?

!?

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN LUCK.

HEH...

ﾅﾞｲ

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. SIT DOWN.

THE TIME YOU'VE SPENT PLAYING WITH DOLLS HASN'T BEEN COMPLETELY WASTED.

DOLLS... DOES HE KNOW ABOUT SCARECROW?

ｽﾞｯ

THIS RULE...

...IS ABSOLUTE.

LET ME EXPLAIN.

ﾏﾙ

WOW...

人生色々

* JINSEI IROIRO: "THERE ARE MANY DESTINIES."

WHY?

WORD IS, THIS YEAR'S FIRST CHIEF EXAMINATION OFFICER IS MORINO IBIKI.

DON'T WORRY. WE'LL BE BUSY AGAIN BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.

IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN GO ON TRAINING MISSIONS WITHOUT THEM.

WITH OUR SUBORDINATES TIED UP IN EXAMS, WE'VE GOT TIME ON OUR HANDS.

SADIST?

!

THAT SADIST? WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE IBIKI?!

KURENAI, YOU'RE STILL A NEWBIE TO THE *JÔNIN* ELITE, SO YOU HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING.

WILL THEY EVEN MAKE IT PAST THE FIRST EXAM?

.....

SIZZLE

AT WHAT?

A PRO?

HE'S A PRO. A PRO'S PRO...

WHY? WHAT'S HE LIKE?

.....

TORTURE AND INTERROGATION!

JONIN COMMANDER

MORINO IBIKI!

KONOHA BLACK OPS TORTURE AND INTERROGATION CORPS UNIT LEADER

.....!

TORTURE AND INTERROGATION!

...THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE APPLICANTS ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURES THAT MAKE HIM INFAMOUS AS AN INTERROGATOR.

IN THE EXAM THAT'S PRESENTLY UNDERWAY... WHILE THERE MAY BE NO PHYSICAL TORTURE...

FIRST... YOU MUST CHOOSE.

...WHETHER TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THIS TENTH QUESTION!

AN ABSOLUTE RULE...?!

ULP!

WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE DOESN'T ACCEPT THE QUESTION?!

CH-CHOOSE?

ACCEPT OR REJECT...?

IF YOU REJECT THE QUESTION AND DON'T EVEN TRY TO ANSWER IT, YOU'LL LOSE ALL YOUR POINTS IMMEDIATELY.

...AND FAIL!

AND BOTH OF YOUR TEAMMATES WILL FAIL RIGHT ALONG WITH YOU.

SAY WHAT?!

THEN WHY WOULD ANYONE CHOOSE TO REJECT IT?

BECAUSE.

...OF THE OTHER RULE.

OH COME ON! WHAT MORE CAN HE ADD?

IF YOU TRY TO ANSWER THE QUESTION...

...AND YOU GET IT WRONG...

...YOU WILL NEVER BE PERMITTED TO APPLY FOR THE JOURNEYMAN NINJA EXAMS AGAIN. NOT EVER.

!!

HEH HEH HEH HEH.

HEH HEH...

.....

!!

THERE ARE NINJA HERE WHO'VE SAT FOR THE *CHŪNIN* EXAMS MORE THAN ONCE ALREADY!! WE KNOW THERE ARE!

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS. THAT'S RIDICULOUS!!!

I AM NOW.

JUST YOUR ROTTEN LUCK. I WASN'T MAKING THE RULES IN PAST YEARS.

COME BACK AND REAPPLY NEXT YEAR, AND THE YEAR AFTER THAT.

ANYONE WHO HAS DOUBTS WOULD BE SMART TO REJECT THE TENTH QUESTION RIGHT NOW.

HUH?

I'VE BEEN UP FRONT WITH YOU. YOU CAN TAKE A FAILING GRADE NOW, AND TRY AGAIN LATER.

IF ANYONE ACCEPTS THE QUESTION AND CAN'T ANSWER IT...

HE'LL BE STUCK AT THE JUNIOR LEVEL FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!

TALK ABOUT A NO-WIN SITUATION!

IF EVEN ONE MEMBER OF A CELL REJECTS THE QUESTION, THEN ALL THREE TEAM MEMBERS FAIL FOR THE YEAR.

NO SANE PERSON COULD MAKE SUCH A CHOICE!!

HEADS YOU WIN, TAILS WE LOSE!!

ONCE THEIR NUMBER HAS BEEN CONFIRMED, THEY WILL LEAVE THE ROOM.

THOSE WHO CHOOSE NOT TO ACCEPT SHOULD RAISE THEIR HANDS.

WHAT KIND OF STUPID QUESTION COULD IT BE?!

BUT IF I JUST REJECT THE QUESTION...

IF I GET IT WRONG, I'LL BE A JUNIOR-GRADE ROOKIE FOR LIFE... NOT ACCEPTABLE!!

...SASUKE AND SAKURA BOTH HAVE TO SUFFER FOR MY LACK OF GUTS.

...ALL I'LL LOSE IS TIME. I WON'T HAVE FAILED FOREVER, AND I CAN APPLY AGAIN FOR THE NEXT EXAM.

BUT EVEN IF NARUTO DECIDES TO PLAY IT SAFE AND REJECT THE QUESTION, AND WE ALL FAIL...

I'M SURE I CAN ANSWER THE QUESTION, WHATEVER IT MAY BE!

I DON'T INTEND TO RAISE MY HAND.

IT'D BE FOOLISH TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOREVER FOR OUR SAKES. REJECT THE QUESTION.

BUT NARUTO... YOU'RE DIFFERENT.

BUT...

I QUIT! I'M REJECTING THE QUESTION!

.....

!

I-I...

ガヨ

スッ

NUMBER 130! NUMBER 111! YOU FAIL RIGHT ALONG WITH HIM.

ｶﾘｶﾘ..

ｶﾘｶﾘ..

NUMBER 50! FAILED!

GENNAI!! INAHO!! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

!

.....

CURSES...

I QUIT, TOO!!

ME TOO...

ME TOO...

I-I'M SORRY, GUYS!!

M-ME TOO!!

WHY DON'T YOU RAISE YOUR HAND?

...NARUTO...

IT'S UZUMAKI NARUTO

I AM THE CREAM OF THE ELITE. IN FACT ONE DAY I'M GONNA BE THE NEXT LORD HOKAGE! SO REMEMBER MY NAME.

NINJA! NINJA!! NINJA!!!

I... I DID IT I DID IT! I'M A NINJA

.....

THAT IDIOT!

...I'LL BE A BETTER SHINOBI THAN LORD HOKAGE!!

... AND THEN ALL THE VILLAGERS WILL HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY EXISTENCE AT LAST !!

I AM DOING ALL THE RIGHT THINGS, AND I'M DOING THEM FAST.

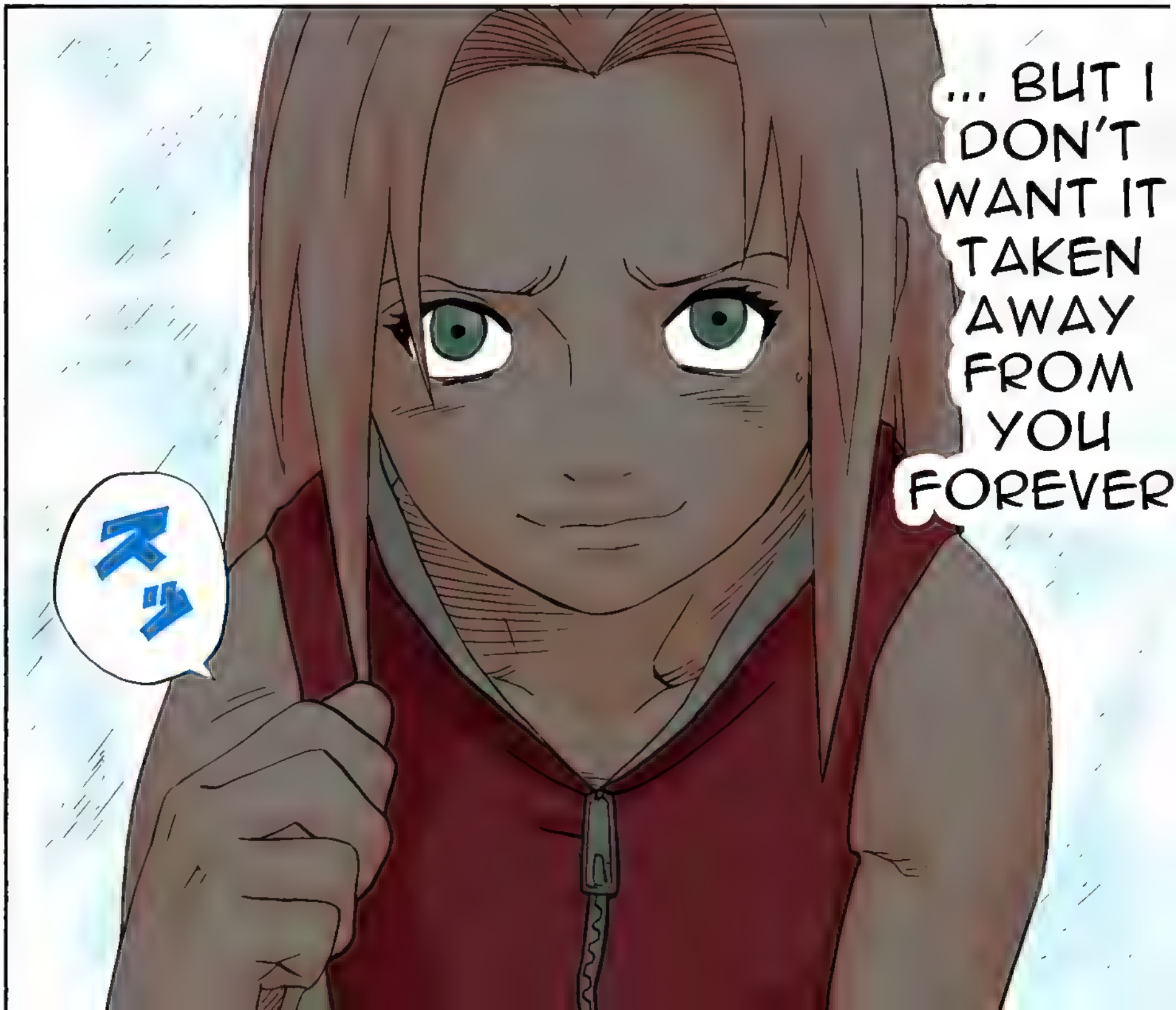
WELL YOU'RE OLD AND STUPID !!!

I'M SORRY, NARUTO...

YOUR DREAM MAY BE CRAZY...

...LIKE A BROKEN RECORD!

HE'S ALWAYS GOING ON ABOUT "LORD HOKAGE" THIS AND "HOKAGE" THAT...



...UNDERSTANDS THE HUMAN HEART COMPLETELY. IT'S WHAT MAKES HIM SO TERRIBLE.

THAT IBIKI...

HUNH?

!

...AND USING THOSE WEAKNESSES TO MAKE THEM CRACK!

HE USES HIS INSIGHTS MERCILESSLY TO MANIPULATE HIS FOES... BRINGING THEIR HUMAN WEAKNESSES TO THE SURFACE...

プハァ

プハァ

TRICKERY IS NO DEFENSE AGAINST HIS SKILLS AS AN INTERROGATOR.

ピク

ピク

!!

!!

N...

NARUTO...!!

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE ME!!!

I DON'T QUIT, AND I WON'T RUN!!

EVEN IF I RISK ENDING UP A ROOKIE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...

I'LL ACCEPT YOUR STUPID QUESTION!!

...I'LL STILL BECOME LORD HOKAGE, EVEN IF I CAN ONLY MAKE IT BY PURE STUBBORNNESS. I DON'T CARE!!

I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!!

GOOD THING...

BECAUSE AN IDIOT LIKE HIM NEEDS THEM!

HE... NEVER EVEN GAVE US A THOUGHT.

BUT HE CERTAINLY DOES HAVE GUTS.

.....

CUSSEDNESS IS PART OF MY SHINOBI SKILL SET!

I NEVER GO BACK ON MY WORD.

I'LL ASK YOU ONE LAST TIME.

THIS IS A DECISION THAT COULD AFFECT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

QUIT NOW, WHILE YOU STILL HAVE THE CHANCE.

SEVENTY-EIGHT OF THEM ARE STILL HERE. HMMM... AN ENTERTAINING KID. AND INTERESTING. HE DISPELLED EVERY-ONE ELSE'S DOUBTS ALONG WITH HIS OWN.

MORE THAN I EXPECTED, BUT...

... THERE'S NO POINT IN DRAGGING IT OUT, THANKS TO HIM...

... NO ONE ELSE WILL QUIT.

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GOOD CALL.

SO, EVERYONE WHO IS STILL HERE...

!!

HUNH?!!!

...YOU'VE JUST PASSED THE FIRST EXAM!!!

ナンバー 44：

試された資質(モノ)…!!(ため)

THE TALENTS WE TEST FOR

!!!

... YOU'VE JUST PASSED THE FIRST TEXAM.

SO... ALL SEVENTY-EIGHT OF YOU WHO ARE STILL HERE...

WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN?

WHAT ABOUT THE TENTH QUESTION?!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "PASSED"?

.....

...BEYOND THE WHOLE "ACCEPT OR REJECT" THING.

THERE IS NO TENTH QUESTION...

THOSE QUESTIONS HAD A PURPOSE, WHICH THEY'VE ALREADY SERVED.

THERE WAS NO WASTE.

THAT WAS A TOTAL WASTE OF OUR TIME!

HEY! THEN WHY DID WE HAVE TO SUFFER THROUGH THE OTHER NINE QUESTIONS?!

HUNH?!!

!

?

HE SEEMS LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.

...OUR SKILLS AT SPYING?

...AT SPYING!

OUR GOAL WAS TO TEST YOUR SKILLS...

!

SUCH AS?

...WOULD BRING YOUR TEAMMATES DOWN WITH YOU.

OH, I GET IT!

WITH THAT RULE, I PRESSURED YOU WITH THE FEAR THAT ANYTHING YOU DID WRONG...

YOU PASS OR FAIL AS PART OF A THREE-MAN CELL.

REMEMBER THE RULES AT THE BEGINNING?

TEE HEE...

YEP!

YOU ARE SO FULL OF IT!

YOU KNOW, I KINDA FIGURED THAT WAS IT.

...HAD ONLY ONE WAY OF RETAINING YOUR POINTS-- BY CHEATING.

...HAVING REACHED THAT SAME CONCLUSION...

SO MOST OF YOU...

HOWEVER... THE QUESTIONS ARE BEYOND THE LEVEL THAT JUNIOR NINJA COULD BE EXPECTED TO HANDLE.

勉

... TWO JOURNEYMAN NINJA WHO ALREADY KNEW ALL THE ANSWERS.

AND, TO ENSURE THERE WOULD BE SUITABLE TARGETS FOR YOU TO CHEAT FROM, WE SNUCK IN A PAIR OF RINGERS...

IN OTHER WORDS... WE SET UP THE ASSUMPTION YOU'D CHEAT.

HMF.

ピク!

.....

OH, YEAH ME TOO.

IT TOOK ME FOREVER TO FIGURE OUT WHO THEY WERE!

WHAT?

!

ANY IDIOT COULD TELL!

ガバハハハハハ!!

HA HA HA! YEAH! IT WAS OBVIOUS!!!

AW, MAN!!!

しゅる...

ゴン ゴン

...FAILED.

!

OF COURSE, ANYONE WHO CHEAT-ED IN A CLUMSY OR OBVIOUS WAY...

THAT FOOL... HE HAD NO IDEA.

RIGHT, HINATA?

R-RIGHT...

BECAUSE THERE MAY BE CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE BEING CAUGHT IN AN ACT OF ESPIONAGE CAN COST YOU MORE THAN JUST YOUR LIFE.

YOU PAY IN WAYS THAT CAN BE TAKEN FROM YOU LITTLE BY LITTLE, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, WHEN MANY LIVES HANG IN THE BALANCE.

COOL... I BET HIS HANDS ARE EVEN WORSE!

BUT THAT'S WHAT HE GETS FOR BEING DUMB ENOUGH TO GET CAPTURED. IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN TO ME!

……!

ゴク…

BURN SCARS... PUNCTURES FROM WHERE SCREWS WERE USED... LONG SLASH MARKS...

ゴク…

HE'S BEEN TOR-TURED!!

コツ コツ

... IF YOU CANT KEEP YOUR PRESCENCE SECRET FROM THE ENEMY.

THE INFORMATION YOU OBTAIN CANT BE TRUSTED...

.....

愛

THAT IS WHY WE MANEUVERED YOU INTO USING YOUR ESPIONAGE SKILLS TO CHEAT.

IT WAS THE QUICKEST WAY OF WEEDING OUT THE STUDENTS WHOSE SKILLS AREN'T YET UP TO SNUFF.

IF YOU BRING BACK INTELLIGENCE FROM A SUSPECT SOURCE OR A COMPROMISED OPERATION...

... YOU'RE DOING YOUR ENEMIES' WORK FOR THEM, PUTTING THOSE YOU SERVE IN DANGER.

LEARN THAT AND LEARN IT WELL.

ギロ!

OKAY... BUT WHAT WAS THE DEAL WITH THE TENTH QUESTION?

.....

...WAS THE FIRST REAL TEST ON THE EXAM.

AH! THE TENTH QUESTION...

THE TENTH QUESTION...

...WAS A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO OPTIONS...

LET ME EXPLAIN...

WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU MEAN?

.....

?

IT WAS A NASTY, UNFAIR, NO-WIN SET OF OPTIONS.

... LOST ANY CHANCE OF EVER EVEN TRYING AGAIN.

THOSE WHO CHOSE TO REJECT WERE FAILED, AND THEIR FRIENDS ALONG WITH THEM. THOSE WHO CHOSE TO ACCEPT AND COULDN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION...

...THAT WERE BOTH DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS.

LET'S SUPPOSE YOU ALL GO ON TO SUCCESSFULLY ATTAIN THE RANK OF *CHÛNIN*.

SO WHY DID I PRESENT THEM?

.....

NOW... DO YOU ACCEPT YOUR MISSION? OR DO YOU REJECT IT...

YOU MAY HAVE TO CROSS A TERRITORY THAT HAS BEEN HEAVILY MINED AND SET WITH TRAPS.

...KNOWING NOTHING ABOUT THE SKILLS, DEPLOYMENT, OR MILITARY PREPAREDNESS OF YOUR FOE.

YOU ARE ASSIGNED TO STEAL A VITAL ENEMY DOCUMENT...

OF COURSE NOT!

COULD ANY *CHÛNIN* GET AWAY WITH ONLY TAKING ON THE SAFE JOBS?

.....

...RATHER THAN PLACE YOUR OWN LIFE--OR THE LIVES OF YOUR COMPANIONS-- IN JEOPARDY?

...HELPING ALL TO OVERCOME THEIR FEAR.

A NINJA MUST DEMONSTRATE VALOR THAT INSPIRES THOSE AROUND HIM...

...THERE WILL BE MISSIONS THAT YOU CANNOT DECLINE.

NO MATTER HOW DANGEROUS THE RISK...

THIS IS THE TALENT THAT WE MOST VALUE IN THE COMMANDER OF A *CHÛNIN* CELL!

IN MY OPINION, THEY DON'T BELONG IN THE RANKS OF THE *CHÛNIN* AT ALL!

...ARE WEAKLINGS WHO MAKE ONLY WEAK AND EASY DECISIONS.

...WHO WOULD TRADE TODAY'S CERTAIN RISK FOR TOMORROW'S UNCERTAIN FUTURE...

THOSE WHO CAN'T GAMBLE WITH THEIR OWN FATE...

... NEVER TAKING THE CHANCE THAT LIES BEFORE THEM...

ドキ

ドキ

IF YOU KEEP THAT SPIRIT, YOU CAN PROBABLY CONQUER ALL OF THE MANY DOUBTS AND DIFFICULTIES YOU'LL FACE.

...YOU ANSWERED THE ALMOST-INSOLUBLE TENTH QUESTION CORRECTLY.

UNDERESTIMATE ME!!!

I ON'T UIT, D I N'T N!

BY CHOOSING TO ACCEPT...

I'LL PRAY YOU FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!

YOU'VE PASSED THE FIRST HURDLE. PART ONE OF THE *CHÛNIN* SELECTION EXAM IS NOW CONCLUDED.

AN ENTERTAINING KID...

HO HO...

YEAH. YOU DO THAT! GO PRAY!

!!

!!

!!

WHA-?!!

ズズズズ

WH-
WHAT
THE--

カ!!

HER...
NOW?
OH,
SPARE
ME...

ー

ｻｯ

NONE OF YOU ARE IN ANY POSITION TO CELEBRATE.

NEWLY ARRIVED SECOND CHIEF COMMAND OFFICER

I AM THE SECOND CHIEF EXAMINATION OFFICER...

...MITARASHI ANKO!!

TIME'S A-WASTIN', PEOPLE. LET'S GO!!

しーん

...!?

FOLLOW ME!!!

ボソ

ピク

CAN'T YOU SENSE THE MOOD IN HERE?

THIS NEW OFFICER ALMOST REMINDS ME...

...OF NARUTO.

.....

OBVIOUSLY YOU WENT WAY TOO EASY ON THEM.

SEVENTY-EIGHT OF YOU ARE STILL HERE?!

IBIKI! YOU PASSED TWENTY-SIX TEAMS?!

I'LL CUT DOWN THE NUMBER BY HALF BEFORE THE NEXT TEST IS DONE.

YEAH, RIGHT.

...WE HAVE APPLICANTS OF EXCEPTIONAL CALIBER.

THIS YEAR...

I'LL EXPLAIN THINGS IN DETAIL AS SOON AS WE MOVE TO OUR NEXT LOCATION... SO FOLLOW ME!!

OOH! I GET CHARGED UP JUST THINKING ABOUT IT!

CUT US DOWN... BY HALF?!

!!

!

UZUMAKI NARUTO... IS A VERY INTRIGING YOUNG MAN.

HE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO THINKS HE CAN PASS THE EXAM... WITH A COMPLETELY BLANK ANSWER SHEET.

HUH.

THIS IS THE ARENA FOR THE SECOND EXAM: TRAINING GROUND 44.

ALSO KNOWN AS... THE **FOREST OF DEATH!!**

立入り禁止区域

ゴク…

NO TRESPASSING

ナンバー45：第二の試験!!

THE SECOND EXAM!!

HEH HEH ...

IT LOOKS LIKE A PRETTY CREEPY PLACE.

...

...

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...WHY THEY CALL THIS THE "FOREST OF DEATH"!

YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT FIRSTHAND...

YOU'RE TRYING TO PSYCH US OUT, AND I'M NOT GONNA FALL FOR IT!!

LIKE THAT'S REALLY GONNA SCARE US.

SHING

SULK

UR...

"...WHY THEY CALL THIS THE 'FOREST OF DEATH'!"

"OOO, YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT FIRSTHAND..."

VA-VOOM

FWAP

YOU'RE PRETTY COCKY, HUH?

OH, REALLY?

GRIN

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!

SHF

TAK

HEH. YOUR KIND ARE ALWAYS THE FIRST TO GO.

!!

SLICE

SHM

!!

SWIPE

SPILLING ALL THAT RICH, RED, LOVELY, LUSCIOUS BLOOD...

PLIT

LAP...

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I BELIEVE YOU DROPPED IT.

YOUR *KUNAI* KNIFE...

SHLUGk

GEE... THANKS.

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GRRRR

SLUP

...UNLESS YOU'RE IN A HURRY TO DIE.

SLUP

SMEK

DON'T JUST STAND BEHIND ME...

...RADIATING BLOODLUST...

...

N-NARUTO..

SHLUGK

WE'VE GOT A REAL NUTCASE PROCTORING THIS EXAM!

NOT GOOD. NOT GOOD AT ALL.

...AND I WAS ALREADY REVVED UP... FROM LOSING A STRAND OF MY PRECIOUS HAIR.

I'LL TRY TO KEEP IT UNDER CONTROL... BUT THE SIGHT OF WARM, FRESH BLOOD REALLY MAKES ME CRAZY...

しゅるる

悪鬼羅刹

LORED

ANGA.COM

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

AND THIS OTHER GUY...

WHAT'S UP WITH THE BIG, FREAKISH TONGUE?

SHHF * THE CHARACTER ON THE LOINCLOTH READS "CRIME."

WE'RE HOT-BLOODED... AND SHE'S BLOOD-**THIRSTY!**

CONSENT FORM

HEH... SHOULD BE FUN...

LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A HOT-BLOODED TEAM ON OUR HANDS THIS TIME OUT!

GRIN

同意書

FLAP

...THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO HAND OUT.

BEFORE WE BEGIN THE SECOND EXAM...

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...WHY?

THEY'RE CONSENT FORMS. EVERYBODY HAS TO SIGN ONE.

?

!

SIGN BEFORE YOU GO IN, SO WE CAN'T BE HELD LIABLE.

YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME TO GET IN TROUBLE, WOULD YOU? ♡

WE WANT ALL THE DETAILS COVERED BEFORE THE FIRST DEATHS OCCUR.

HA

HA HA!

WITH THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS OF YOUR CELL, BRING THE FORMS TO THE HUT BEHIND YOU AND SUBMIT THEM.

FIRST, I'LL EXPLAIN WHAT THE SECOND EXAM ENTAILS.

THEN YOU CAN SIGN THE FORMS.

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!

...IT'S A NO-HOLDS-BARRED SURVIVAL TEST.

TO PUT IT SIMPLY...

NOW, ABOUT THE EXAM.

GOT THAT?

LET'S START WITH THE TOPOGRAPHY OF THIS TRAINING GROUND.

I'LL EXPLAIN THE REST LATER.

ANOTHER PAIN-IN-THE-NECK EXAM! BLEAH!

FLAP

SURVIVAL, EH?

FWUP

THERE ARE FORESTS AND A RIVER... AND IN THE CENTER IS A TOWER...

...ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS FROM THOSE GATES.

RIVER

44 LOCKED ENTRANCES

APPROXIMATELY 10KM

TOWER

TRAINING GROUND #44

TRAINING GROUND #43

TRAINING GROUND #44...

...IS BORDERED BY A CIRCULAR PERIMETER, INTERRUPTED AT REGULAR INTERVALS BY FORTY-FOUR LOCKED GATES.

4

WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THIS CAREFULLY DELINEATED AREA, YOU'RE GOING TO UNDERGO A SURVIVAL TEST.

DURING THE COURSE OF THAT TEST, YOU MAY USE ANY NINJA ARTS OR WEAPONS YOU HAVE AT YOUR DISPOSAL.

SHFF

IT'S A KIND OF FIGHT-TO-THE-DEATH VERSION...

...OF "CAPTURE THE FLAG"... OR, IN THIS CASE, "CAPTURE THE SCROLL."

SHF

SCROLL?

EXACTLY!

THERE'S A "SCROLL OF HEAVEN" AND A "SCROLL OF EARTH" ...AND YOUR OBJECTIVE IS TO ACQUIRE BOTH SCROLLS.

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THIRTEEN TEAMS WILL START OUT WITH A HEAVEN SCROLL...

*THIS SCROLL READS *TEN*, MEANING "HEAVEN."

THERE ARE SEVENTY-EIGHT OF YOU HERE.

BUT YOU'LL NEED BOTH SCROLLS TO PASS.

...AND THE OTHER THIRTEEN WILL START WITH AN EARTH SCROLL.

*THIS SCROLL READS *CHI*, MEANING "EARTH."

THAT'S TWENTY-SIX THREE-MEMBER TEAMS.

...AND THEN BRING THEM BOTH...

SO YOUR OBJECTIVE IS TO HOLD ON TO YOUR OWN SCROLL, GET YOUR HANDS ON ONE OF THE OTHER KIND...

...TO THE TOWER AT THE CENTER.

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YOU HAVE 120 HOURS IN WHICH TO COMPLETE THIS EXAM--

--EXACTLY FIVE DAYS!

YOU BET! AND THERE'S A TIME LIMIT!

--THE THIRTEEN TEAMS WHOSE SCROLLS ARE STOLEN-- WILL FAIL.

IN OTHER WORDS, AT LEAST HALF OF US--

FIVE DAYS?!

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO FOR FOOD?!

THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM.

THE FORESTS ARE FULL OF NATURE'S BOUNTY.

OF COURSE, THEY'RE ALSO FULL OF MAN-EATING ANIMALS, DEADLY INSECTS, AND POISONOUS PLANTS.

THERE'S NO WAY AS MANY AS THIRTEEN TEAMS WILL PASS THIS.

AS THE TIME SHORTENS, THE TRIALS WILL COME HARDER AND FASTER..

...WITH LESS RECOVERY TIME FOR ANY MISTAKES, ACCIDENTS, OR INJURIES.

YOU'LL BE SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES AT ALL TIMES, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO SLEEP WITH ONE EYE OPEN.

SIGH

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...SOME OF YOU ARE BOUND TO SUCCUMB TO EXHAUSTION, EXPOSURE, STARVATION, AND DEHYDRATION.

SO, IN ADDITION TO THOSE WHO DIE IN ATTEMPTS TO DEFEND OR CAPTURE A SCROLL...

WAVE

OBVIOUSLY, THE TEAMS THAT FAIL TO REACH THE TOWER IN TIME--

--AS A THREE-MEMBER CELL, CARRYING BOTH A HEAVEN AND AN EARTH SCROLL-- ARE OUT.

ヒュ

NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT THE RULES... AND WHAT OFFENSES YOU CAN BE DISQUALIFIED FOR!

NO RECESS. NO TIME-OUTS.

...CAN YOU LEAVE THE FOREST BEFORE THE TIME IS UP.

AND UNDER NO CIRCUM-STANCES...

SO IS ANY TEAM THAT LOSES A MEMBER, WHETHER TO DEATH OR TO SEVERE INJURY.

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...YOU'RE FORBIDDEN TO LOOK AT THE CONTENTS OF THE SCROLLS UNTIL YOU'RE INSIDE THE TOWER!

ALSO...

THAT'S FOR THOSE WHO LOOK TO KNOW! ♡

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE SNEAK A PEEK?

WE'LL TRADE ONE SCROLL FOR EVERY THREE FORMS.

WHEN YOU'VE GOT YOURS, CHOOSE THE GATE YOU WANT TO START FROM. EVERYONE WILL BEGIN AT THE SAME TIME.

THAT'S ALL THE EXPLANATION YOU GET.

?

IF ANY OF YOU MAKE IT TO THE *CHÛNIN* LEVEL, THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN YOU'LL BE ENTRUSTED WITH TOP-SECRET DOCUMENTS...

...SO CONSIDER THIS A TEST OF YOUR TRUSTWORTHI-NESS.

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STAY ALIVE!

ONE FINAL PIECE OF ADVICE...

SHF

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO DISTRIBUTE THE SCROLLS.

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THEY'RE CONCEALING WHICH TYPE OF SCROLL EACH TEAM GETS... AND WHICH MEMBER IS CARRYING IT!

SMART! TO KEEP US IN THE DARK...

SKF

EVERYONE IS AN ENEMY!!

... STEALING INTELLIGENCE IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!

IT'S JUST LIKE THAT GUY IBIKI SAID...

IT'S FINALLY STARTING TO SINK IN... WHY WE WANT THOSE CONSENT FORMS!

HEH HEH...

IF WE'RE ALL WILLING TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH, THIS COULD BECOME A MASSACRE.

同意書

AND WE'RE PROBA-BLY ALL EQUALLY DETER-MINED

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...LOOKS LIKE NARUTO'S OUR TARGET.

A FIGHT TO THE DEATH? WHAT A NUISANCE... BUT IF IT'S THE ONLY WAY...

7"/ 7"/

GATE 27
SHIKAMARU, CHOJI, INO

.....

DON'T GO SOFT ON US, HINATA!

WOOHOO! IF IT'S SURVIVAL SKILLS THEY WANT, WE'VE GOT IT MADE!

GATE 16
KIBA, HINATA, SHINO

GRUMBLE

...TO CARRY OUT OUR ORDERS IN THE OPEN.

HEH HEH... THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME...

GATE 20
OTONIN (SOUND) TEAM

ANYONE COMES NEAR US, I'LL KILL 'EM MYSELF!

YEAH! YEAH! WE CAN'T LOSE, I TELL YA!!

OH, PLEASE!

GATE 12
NARUTO'S TEAM

シュビ-!! STAB

...BUT FIVE DAYS IN THE FOREST WITH THAT CREEPY GAARA... ARRRGH!

I'VE GOT TO LOOK OUT FOR ENEMY TEAMS...

GATE 6
GAARA, KANKURO, TEMARI

GATE 38
KABUTO'S TEAM

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TARGET THE ROOKIES FIRST.

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT CARTE BLANCHE TO PICK THEM OFF FROM HERE ON IN...

...WHICH SHOULD MAKE OUR JOB A LOT EASIER.

悪悪悪

罪罪罪

*THE TAGS ON THE HATS READ (RIGHT TO LEFT) "CRIME," "EVIL," AND "PUNISHMENT."

GATE 15
THE MYSTERIOUS KUSANIN GRASS NINJA TRIO.

FORM

MASTER GUY, I WILL DO MY BEST!

GATE 41
NEJI, LEE, TENTEN

SLAP

WHEN THE SIGNAL SOUNDS IN HALF AN HOUR, THE EXAM WILL BEGIN!!

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE, FOLLOW YOUR PROCTORS TO YOUR RESPECTIVE GATES!

12

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CLICK

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NOW!!

PART TWO OF THE JOURNEYMAN NINJA SELECTION EXAM BEGINS...

KATCH

カチ

TAK
TAK
TAK

GO FOR THE BRATS!

THOSE THREE, RIGHT?

ONNNG

ALL RIGHT!!

LET'S GO!!

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